8:15 a.m. MST  Registration and coffee

9:00  Welcome - Northern Ag. Network

9:10  “Growing Soybeans in Southwestern North Dakota” - Hans Kandel, NDSU Extension Agronomist

10:00  “New Insect Pest—Pea Leaf Weevil” - Janet Knodel, NDSU Extension Entomologist

10:50  Break

11:10  “Alfalfa as a Cash Crop” - Emily Glunk, Extension Forage Specialist and Assistant Professor, Montana State University

12 Noon  Lunch

1:00 p.m.  “Navigating a New Farm Bill and More in a Changing Policy World” - Brad Lubben, Extension Associate Professor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

2:00  “Maximize Prices and Reduce Problems When Growing Pulses” - Brian Gion, Marketing Director, Northern Pulse Growers Association

2:30  Break

2:45  “Inside the Black Box of the US Drought Monitor” - Laura Edwards, South Dakota State Climatologist

3:35  Final Comments and Adjourn
Hans Kandel  
PhD, NDSU Extension Agronomist  
Soybean is an amazing crop and has proven to be a profitable crop. In order to maximize the yield potential, attention to detail is important. Management aspects from field and variety selection, row spacing, plant population, fertility management, and general crop management will be discussed based on the latest NDSU research data.

Janet Knodel  
PhD, NDSU Extension Entomologist  
Pea leaf weevil is a major pest of field pea and faba beans and was discovered in western North Dakota in 2017. Field surveys found it to be present in the counties of Golden Valley, Dunn, Stark, Mountrail and Divide. The biology and pest management strategies of pea leaf weevil will be discussed including scouting, economic thresholds and control strategies.

Emily Glunk  
PhD, Extension Forage Specialist and Assistant Professor, Montana State University  
Gather info on the use of alfalfa as a cash crop, why to consider it in a cropping system, the benefits of including it in rotations, how alfalfa can help remediate saline seeps, how variety selection is critical to successful establishment, appropriate establishment techniques, evaluating the suitability of cultivars, the need for fertilization, and how to maximize establishment success.

Brian Gion  
Marketing Director, Northern Pulse Growers Association  
Listen to what pulse growers can do to maximize prices and reduce problems when growing pulses. Brian will cover what to do to make marketing pulse crops to processors, grain buyers and elevators a positive experience.

Brad Lubben  
PhD, Extension Associate Professor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
The 2018 Farm Bill debate is fully underway. How will farmers and ranchers fare in the process? Will there be a safety net in the next bill and what will it look like? Could other issues beyond the farm bill like trade, regulations, and tax policy mean even more in the long run than the current farm bill debate? Lubben will address these issues, the status and direction of the farm bill debate, the bigger ag policy arena and the increased uncertainty and volatility of ag policy issues affecting farmers and ranchers.

Laura Edwards  
South Dakota State Climatologist  
The U.S. Drought Monitor has rapidly matured in its 18 year history and now is critical for USDA drought disaster relief programs. Since the 2008 Farm Bill, the U.S. Drought Monitor has been a trigger for the eligibility of the Livestock Forage Program. In the 2014 Farm Bill, these criteria were revised. The 2017 Northern Plains drought demonstrated the importance of this national drought map for local assistance. One issue lies in the lack of local data that is available to make county-level recommendations to the authors of the map. This presentation will discuss how the U.S. Drought Monitor map is prepared each week, including what data are used and how Extension staff and agricultural producers have contributed and can continue to contribute to each week’s assessments.