

Why do we need Discovery Farms?

The idea for Discovery Farms was formulated and implemented in Wisconsin to address the concerns that environmental regulations were inconsistent with profitable agricultural production.

Similar concerns also exist in North Dakota. Farmers, ranchers, researchers, policymakers and governmental agencies in the state recognize that a balance must be reached between the maintenance of agricultural profitability and the implementation of regulations and policies that protect our natural resources.

Discovery Farms will provide a working farm setting to collect the data needed to help these decision makers strike that balance.

More Information

Ron Wiederholt

NDSU Extension Service
Carrington Research Extension Center
663 Highway 281 N.
Carrington, ND 58421
(701) 652-2951
ron.wiederholt@ndsu.edu

NDSU
NDSU Extension Service
N.D. Agricultural Experiment Station
North Dakota State University

 **NORTH DAKOTA**
DEPARTMENT of HEALTH

 **USGS**
science for a changing world

County commissions, North Dakota State University and U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Duane Hauck, director, Fargo, N.D. Distributed in furtherance of the acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914. We offer our programs and facilities to all people regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability, age, veteran's status or sexual orientation; and are an equal opportunity institution. This publication will be made available in alternative formats for people with disabilities upon request, (701) 231-7881.

**NORTH
DAKOTA
DISCOVERY
FARMS**



**Strengthening the relationship between
profitable farm production and the environment**

What's a Discovery Farm?

A Discovery Farm is a working farm or ranch voluntarily cooperating with local, state and federal natural resource managers to demonstrate and evaluate the effectiveness of various practices at reducing environmental impacts while maintaining farm profitability.

Discovery Farms will be located across North Dakota to account for diversity of agriculture, topography, weather and other factors.

Each Discovery Farm will address specific grass-roots issues that are of greatest importance to the cooperating producer and that region of the state.

With this grass-roots focus, the results from each Discovery Farm will have local application, as well as relevance to a broader range of the farm/ranch population.

Goals of the Discovery Farms Project

- Encourage responsible development of a diverse livestock industry in the state that will benefit crop and livestock producers while protecting our natural resources
- Ensure a coordinated approach to the development and management of regulatory practices and policies
- Document and quantify the environmental benefits and impacts of farming or ranching practices
- Provide unbiased, reliable information to the general public, ag producers and policymakers concerning the relationship between agricultural production and natural resource management
- Provide a conduit to enhance communication and information sharing among agricultural producers, researchers, educators, the general public and regulatory agencies
- Establish a network of working farms to demonstrate and evaluate the benefits and impacts of existing and new/innovative agricultural land use practices
- Provide a platform for agricultural systems research through cooperation with interested research institutions

