

# Research Profile - Eric Eriksmoen

Name: Eric Eriksmoen

Department: North Central Research Extension Center (NCREC)

REC Location: Minot

Position: Research Agronomist



## **Brief Background about Yourself:**

I have served as a research agronomist at the NCREC since May 2012. Previously, I worked as a research agronomist at the Hettinger Research Extension Center for 24 years. I received a B.S. degree in agronomy and M.S. degree in plant breeding and genetics at North Dakota State University.

I also offer experience in farming practices from working on my family farm in Leeds, North Dakota, and from Tanzania, Africa, where I worked alongside my father in agricultural development on a seed farm.

## **Tell us about the goals of your research program?**

The goal of my research is to provide farmers with information that will enhance their productivity.

## **More specifically, what is the primary focus of your current research?**

The primary focus of my research is on varietal development. I assist in the development of adapted crop varieties that are higher yielding, have better resistance to pests and have higher seed qualities.

## **What are your long term objectives?**

My long term objectives are to develop relationships with farmers, agricultural consultants and private industry as the “go to” person for unbiased and reliable information.

## **How do you feel it will impact the region, nationally, globally?**

Farmers will need to continue to increase their productivity to feed a growing world. Hopefully, the research that the NCREC conducts will help provide farmers with the knowledge and technology to be more productive.

## **When finished, what will your work mean? What will it mean to the state of ND?**

Hopefully my work will never be done. Variety and crop development are continuous. The new varieties that NDSU releases provide additional income and reduce risk to ND producers.

**What excites you the most about your project?**

Our station is doing research on Carinata (*Brassica carinata*). This plant, also known as Ethiopian mustard, is currently being commercialized as a potential bio-energy feedstock. The crop has growth habits similar to canola, with similar pest problems that are familiar to many producers. I'm excited to be one of the "chosen" few who get the opportunity to help figure out how to grow this crop in North Dakota. Bio-energy production is still in its infancy but I believe will continue to become more important to our national security in the long run.

**Do you have any graduate/undergraduate students helping with this project?**

No graduate students are specifically dedicated to this project, although we typically have students that work at the NCREC during the growing season.

**What is the greatest reward after the completion of a project?**

The biggest "pat on the back" that I get is from having the farming community pick up and utilize my work.

**What is your advice for students who want to go into your field of study?**

Research requires a lot of repetition and precision, so being patient and attentive are qualities that are important in this line of work. Also, listen to what producers are saying. They're the people whose livelihoods ultimately depend on what you do.

**What are some of your hobbies/activities you like to do when you are not spending time on your research project?**

I'm a volunteer paramedic. I also enjoy hunting and fishing. My wife, Melisa, and I have a grown son that lives in California.

**Contact information:**

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Pictures of Carinata growing at the NCREC



Field Tour



