Colleagues: We would like to extend congratulations to each of these individuals receiving promotion and/or tenure within NDSU Agriculture.

Lawrence Henry, Langdon Research Extension Center (LREC), has been promoted to research specialist II effective July 1, 2021. Henry contributes to a wide array of research projects at the LREC including industrial hemp production, soybean seeding rate, canola production, and crop rotations. His mechanical skills are a valuable asset and he is known as the “go-to” person for questions and answers. He also manages the Case IH equipment lease program at the LREC. With his help, the LREC has converted to using GPS for field plot research.

Torre Hovick, School of Natural Resource Sciences (Range Science), has been promoted to associate professor with tenure effective July 1, 2021. Dr. Hovick's research focuses on range and wildlife ecology with a primary goal of discovering and implementing solutions for healthy agriculture and natural resources. He actively collaborates with scientists in the Research Extension Center network, as well as with faculty throughout NDSU. Dr. Hovick is also responsible for teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in the School of Natural Resource Sciences, and he utilizes numerous innovative active learning techniques for his instruction. Dr. Hovick also serves as the Program Leader of the Range Science program in the School.

Audrey Kalil, Williston Research Extension Center (WREC), has been promoted to associate Agricultural Experiment Station specialist effective July 1, 2021. Dr. Kalil serves as the center’s first plant pathologist and has contributed to the research efforts on plant disease management issues in western North Dakota. Her research focuses on diseases of importance in the pulse crops of field peas, chickpeas, and lentils as well as durum wheat and sugar beet. She is a resource person for local agronomists and growers, answering questions and providing consultation related to plant disease in the region. Dr. Kalil provides leadership for the North Central IPM Center Pulse Crops Working Group and co-produces the pest management focused Growing Pulse Crops podcast series.

Xuehui Li, Department of Plant Sciences, has been promoted to associate professor with tenure effective July 1, 2021. His research area is in quantitative genomics with a focus on innovative genomic approaches for trait improvement in wheat and other crops grown in the Northern Great Plains. He has developed an externally funded research program that includes several crops (hard red spring wheat, durum, and grape among others), development of a high-throughput genotyping and bioinformatics tool, and collaboration with over a half dozen scientists. Dr. Li is responsible for teaching graduate and undergraduate courses in Genomics, Genomic Techniques and Applied Plant Molecular Breeding.
Siew Hoon Lim, Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics, has been promoted to professor with tenure effective August 16, 2021. Dr. Lim advises undergraduate and graduate students; and teaches courses in Principles of Microeconomics, Intermediate Microeconomics, Econometrics and Industrial Organization. Her teaching efforts have been recognized by her peers with both the ‘Earl and Dorothy Foster’ and ‘H. Roald and Janet Lund’ excellence in teaching awards in CAFSNR. Dr. Lim has developed an active research program in applied economics with a focus on transportation economics and policy with specific emphasis on U.S. airport managerial performance and public transit.

Robert Maddock, Department of Animal Sciences, has been promoted to professor effective July 1, 2021. Dr. Maddock’s research focus is on meat quality and value. He has been involved in multistate research which provided valuable input in developing research priorities for the beef industry. His technical expertise has been recognized by being elected to the board of directors of the American Meat Science Association. Dr. Maddock teaches courses in meat science, beef production, and food safety. He advises undergraduate and graduate students and coordinates the intercollegiate meat judging team.

Juan Osorno, Plant Sciences, has been promoted to professor effective July 1, 2021. Dr. Osorno has developed an innovative, extramurally-funded and internationally-respected program in dry bean breeding and genetics. Since 2007 when he took over the already-existing breeding program, 16 dry bean cultivars across different market classes have been released to North Dakota growers. Today, this is the largest public program in the country devoted exclusively to dry bean breeding and genetics. Dr. Osorno teaches undergraduate Genetics/Laboratory and graduate Seminar. He also advises undergraduate students and actively participates in graduate student training, working across disciplines and departments, and with industry representatives and stakeholders to develop and implement innovative dry bean research and teaching programs.

Stacey Ostby, Department of Animal Sciences, has been promoted to senior lecturer effective July 1, 2021. Ostby is a licensed veterinary technician, has taught at NDSU for over 10 years, and serves as co-director of the NDSU Veterinary Technology program. She teaches a wide variety of classes and has consistently received excellent ratings from students. She has received a national award for teaching effectiveness and a college-level award for advising. She is an extremely effective advisor for the Veterinary Technology Student Organization and consistently carries one of the largest advising loads in CAFSNR.
Gautam Pradhan, Williston Research Extension Center (WREC), has been promoted to associate Agricultural Experiment Station specialist effective July 1, 2021. Dr. Pradhan is an agronomist at the center. His research focuses on developing ag technologies that increase farm income of North Dakota producers and ag enterprises through enhanced growth, yield, and quality of field crops. He has been conducting interdisciplinary research to develop crop management practices suitable for dryland conditions. He evaluates varieties, breeding lines, and exotic species for abiotic stress tolerance and adaptation under semiarid conditions; and is assessing the use of unmanned aircraft systems in small plot experiments. He reviews manuscripts for 12 different international journals and is actively disseminating his research outcomes through presentations and publications at various forums.

Deirdre A. Prischmann-Voldseth, School of Natural Resource Sciences (SNRS) - Entomology, has been promoted to professor effective July 1, 2021. Dr. Prischmann-Voldseth’s research program centers on the biology, ecology, and integrated management of arthropod crop pests. She collaborates with scientists at multiple academic institutions within the U.S. and abroad, professionals within the USDA-ARS and industry, as well as researchers at NDSU. She is a member of the North Central Soybean Entomology Research and Extension Team that received the International IPM Award of Excellence in 2018. Dr. Prischmann-Voldseth teaches undergraduate and graduate courses, which include General Entomology and Principles of Insect Pest Management and has received several teaching awards. Her service work focuses on diversity, equity, and inclusion. She also studies the cultural history of Entomology and writes books for children (deirdreprischmann.com).

John Rickertsen, Hettinger Research Extension Center (HREC), has been promoted to Agricultural Experiment Station specialist effective July 1, 2021. Rickertsen is an agronomist at the center and contributes to research and outreach efforts related to agronomy and crop production issues. Of particular note are his efforts to work with a substantial number of breeding programs where his role is to facilitate germplasm evaluation in southwest North Dakota. He maintains active collaborative relationships with a number of scientists from main station departments, other RECs as well as personnel from neighboring universities.

Alison Ward, Department of Animal Sciences, has been promoted to associate professor with tenure effective July 1, 2021. Dr. Ward has a vigorous research program in nutritional epigenetics. She has established a functional genetics/molecular biology laboratory and has become a leader that many look to on laboratory techniques. One example is her contribution to understanding how maternal nutrition during early pregnancy affects fetal development and gene expression in beef cattle. Dr. Ward teaches undergraduate and graduate courses related to poultry production and molecular biology in animal sciences, and advises undergraduate and graduate students.
Guiping Yan, Department of Plant Pathology, has been promoted to associate professor with tenure effective July 1, 2021. Dr. Yan’s main research is on plant-parasitic nematodes, which are an important group of pests that affect the production of field crops. She conducted extensive field surveys to determine the incidence and abundance of nematodes in cropped fields. Her nematode surveys led to the first discovery of ten new species occurring in ND and MN. Dr. Yan’s findings were especially important for identifying and developing soybean varieties with improved resistance to the new virulent soybean cyst nematode (SCN) populations. Yan teaches a graduate course on Plant Nematology.

Regards,

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