The sixth seminar of the RLND Program focused on “Exploring the Relationships between Agriculture, Communities and Natural Resources” and was held Nov. 29th – Dec. 1st. The seminar was headquartered at the Hettinger Research Extension Center where speakers discussed community capitals, natural resources, leadership, planning for the future and an upcoming seminar trip to Brazil.

Dr. Chris Schauer, NDSU Hettinger Research Extension Center Director, welcomed the group to Hettinger and the research center and discussed the history of the center. Kathleen Tweeten, Director of NDSU Extension Center for Community Vitality, shared the Community Capitals framework with the group and explained all of the capitals that make up a community including social, political, built, financial, natural, cultural, and human. The focus of Thursday afternoon was natural resources. Keith Trego, Director of North Dakota Natural Resources Trust presented “The Story of the North American Model for Wildlife.” Keith also led a panel discussion on the value of conservation efforts to preserve and promote natural resources. Panel participants included: Dr. Jim Ringelman, Ducks Unlimited, Karen Kriel, ND Natural Resources Trust, and Greg Link, ND Game and Fish Department. Dr. Ben Geaumont, Wildlife and Range Scientist at the Hettinger Research Extension Center, discussed research that is being conducted to provide information to help balance the interests of production agriculture and other conservation efforts.

Clay Jenkinson, Director of the Dakota Institute, portrayed Theodore Roosevelt at the Leadership Dinner which concluded a great day of RLND. Teddy Roosevelt shared the following points about leadership: use the tools that you have, never ask someone to do something you wouldn’t do yourself, whatever job you hold you must regard it as the last job you will have, and you must take risks.

Friday morning kicked off with the “Futures Game” led by David Lehman, NDSU Extension Manufacturing Specialist. Class participants made decisions regarding their mock communities and learned how the decisions impacted the community both in the short and long-term. The RLND class enjoyed a tour of Highway 12 with a destination of the Cedar Hills Wind Farm west of Rhame.

Ashley Alderson of the Bowman Development Corporation gave the group a tour of the Bowman community and showcased the exciting things happening in the community. The Bowman FFA chapter gave a demonstration on parliamentary procedure and joined the group at the Golf Course for lunch. The tour continued west to Chip & Ann Fischer’s Ranch, the Bowman Ranch, and the Cedar Hills Wind Farm where cattle rancher John Lee Njos shared some of his management strategies with the group.

The seminar wrapped up on Saturday with planning for the upcoming seminar in Bismarck which will focus on “Understanding North Dakota Agriculture and Rural Policies”, as well as discussion on seminar eight which is a trip to Brazil to study “International Agriculture and Community Issues”. 