Continuing Our Commitment

Background
Since 1905, the Dickinson Research Extension Center has fulfilled the legislative mission to the agricultural producers and citizens of North Dakota through service and stewardship. The efforts of the DREC faculty have been dedicated to solid scientific research that provide solutions that are sustainable within today's economic climate.

Impacts
The DREC faculty and staff are active in finding answers that will identify positive economic advantages for producers and successfully preserve our natural resources. Major areas of research involvement are as follows:

- Soil health research and education to show how soil health is improved by the microbial action of microorganisms, which can reduce input costs and increase productivity.
- Continue exploring symbiotic relationships between livestock, range science, cover crops and cropping systems to advance revenue streams and the quality of place for North Dakotans.
- For all of our impacts, see our website: https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/DickinsonREC

Map of DREC owned and managed lands

Capital Improvement Needs and Deferred Maintenance Increase

1. Upgrade the arena at the DREC ranch headquarters southwest of Manning to improve our cattle working facility and create a more effective and safe handling facility for cattle and labor. This arena is our multi-purpose building, used as an educational area for conferences and public meetings.

2. As previously requested, a new building for large equipment storage, chemical and hazardous material storage, and repairs.

Programmatic Needs

1. Maintain adequate operating funds.

2. A research specialist to allow us to continue our efforts in the integration of livestock, range science, cover crops and cropping systems.

3. A research specialist with a master's level education to facilitate research and data collection. The Center needs annual support for a multitude of research projects, which require a broad understanding of various research techniques and data analysis related to the agricultural biome.

Future Critical Issue

1. Use existing facilities to expand graduate student opportunities.

Dickinson Research Extension Center
1041 State Avenue
Dickinson, ND 58601
701-456-1100
K.A. Ringwall, PhD, director

https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/DickinsonREC

Our Focus:
Continue soil-plant-livestock-air continuum research emphasizing soil health, agronomy, range management and livestock production. The current research focus and long research history provide a firm foundation to continue cutting edge research to match goals and objectives for work related to the agricultural biome.

Cropland Soil Health
- Reduce soil disturbance
- Increase plant, animal diversity
- Maintain living roots in the soil

Cropping Systems and Beef Cattle Grazing
- Wheat yield increase on diverse crop rotation
- $ return on rotations exceed 20%
- Beef gain at 2.1 lbs/day grazing annual crops

Rangeland Soil Health
- Grazing stimulates plants
- Plants energize soil microbes
- Soil microbes renew land

Plant and animal genomic research
- Evaluating population diversity
- Exploring heterozygosity
- Using sound stewardship
Date: December 14, 2017

To: Members of the SBARE Board of Directors

RE: Dickinson Research Extension Center program needs

My name is Tim Meyer. I am chairman of the Dickinson Research Extension Center Advisory Board. I am proud to be involved in agriculture, an integral part of the North Dakota landscape and an economic engine for our state. Agricultural producers face many and varied challenges but we are fortunate to have a partner like the Dickinson Research Extension Center.

Partnerships mean relationships. I am pleased to say the Dickinson Research Extension Center has a strong history of helping agriculture maintain a quality of place in our region and state. I trust and rely on the knowledge provided by the Dickinson Research Extension Center.

The Dickinson Research Extension Center faculty and staff—and the greater North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station and North Dakota State University Extension Service—is focused on helping the people, the assets and the natural resources of our state.

The Center advisory board meets regularly with the DREC management, faculty and staff to discuss pertinent issues and find for sensible solutions, a concept that has worked for 112 years. The Center team is focused on working shoulder to shoulder with everyone to provide positive outcomes.

At the advisory board meeting (held Monday, December 12), we discussed at length the programs and needs of the Center. The board was unanimous in its decision to request funding for facility upgrades and construction, which only make sense to protect equipment and provide a venue for extension education.

Additionally, considering the size and scope of the Center, the advisory board unanimously felt the request for programmatic dollars is consistent with the legislative intent for the Dickinson Research Extension Center. The needs are real and are consistent with stewardship practices necessary to protect Center resources.

On behalf of the Dickinson Research Extension Center Advisory Board, I heartily encourage you to look favorably on this request, to help agriculture research, education and extension. Positive action will be good for all North Dakotans.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to these issues. And, thank you for your work on the SBARE committee.

Sincerely,

Tim Meyer, Chair
Dickinson Research Extension Center Advisory Board