I am Kendall Nichols and I am the Director of Research for the ND Soybean Council. The ND Soybean Council has a close working relationship with both the Research Extension Centers and the NDSU Extension Service.

We rely on the NDSU Extension service in many ways that benefit ND Soybean farmers and the state. To the casual observer the county elections that are conducted through the NDSU Extension Service is the obvious connection. But, the relationship is much deeper than that.

I rely on local county agents to provide me with information about soybean production problems throughout ND. This is very important because soybeans now are grown in all regions of ND and growing soybeans Ward County or Divide County is much different than in Richland and Cass County. We believe so much in the impact of the local county agent that the ND Soybean Council will provide up to $750 to every County that is conducting a soybean educational program.

We rely on the NDSU Extension service for many practical research projects that farmers use to improve their production practices improving yields and profits. NDSU Extension staff do the research but also are educators and bring the information and recommendations to farmers quickly. An example is the research Greg Endres conducted at the REC in Carrington on the yield response to “selected establishment factors and special inputs for soybeans”. Endres did the research and presented the information to hundreds of farmers at numerous educational events.

Bill Hodous of Ramsey County approached the ND Soybean Council with an idea for a train the trainer program that would address the potential threat of Palmar Amaranth and spray drift issues. He teamed up with Tom Peters and Alicia Harstad of Stutsman County and they conducted an educational tour to Nebraska. The program is leading to new and exciting educational programs being developed as we speak.

The REC throughout the state are conducting soybean production research that is so important to our farmers and industries future. In Minot soybean fertility research is being conducted to improve efficiency and profitability to soybean production in western ND. In Dickenson soybean plant populations and row spacing studies are being conducted to establish recommendations for south western ND.

The ND Soybean Council values the local presence of the NDSU Extension Service throughout ND. I have just become award of the Next-Gen ND Leaders and Volunteers program being implemented it excites me to know that Extension is addressing a critical need for new leaders for the soybean industry.

Thank you for your time and I welcome questions.