

Nov-Dec 2017

SBARE Stakeholder Written Testimony  
NDSU-Ext. & ND Ag Experiment Stations  
NDSU  
Dept 7520 PO Box 6050  
Fargo, ND 58108-6050

**SBARE and To Whom It May Concern:**

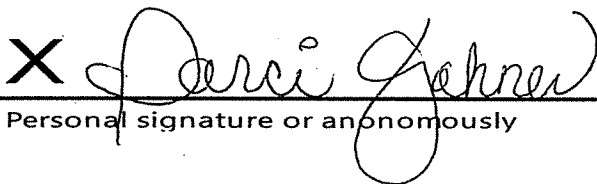
Thank you for your time and interest in the future of North Dakota. I am always looking forward to the next legislative session and the impact we can make as rural and community members.

I would like to express my concern on the direction of NDSU Extension Service and ND Ag Experiment Stations. NDSU-Extension brings education and awareness from youth to senior citizens. Budget cuts are inevitable, but ND is a grass roots-boots on the ground state. We are lucky to have a land grant university that provides information and resources to the rural Ag communities on so many levels. Teaching the next generations, as well as the current, on all the possibilities in the Ag and rural community sectors. The scope of duties that Extension encompasses is untouchable by any other organization and they need to be there for all the great partnerships they have formed. Without them, many other organizations longevity will be in the air as well.

Attached are ways that NDSU-Extension reaches me on a personal level, either currently or in the past. You will see that for myself, along with many others, the impact is in more than a single area. As a state, we cannot afford to lose many of these programs and the employees that implement them. Much appreciation is given for the opportunity for those who are and will be directly affected by this to give their testimony.

I ask that you recommend to the Legislature and the Governor that an investment in NDSU-Extension is an investment in ND rural communities, counties, and our great state.

With much appreciation,

  
Personal signature or anonymously

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Farmer/Rancher	<input type="checkbox"/> Board or Committee Member-City, Township, County, State	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Resident	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural Resident
<input type="checkbox"/> Education-Student, Teacher, Research, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Career	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ag Related Career	<input type="checkbox"/> Business/Finance Career
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government-City, State, County, Federal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# NDSU Impacts Me In These Areas:

(Check ALL that apply and add additional if needed)

## Family & Consumer Sciences

<input type="checkbox"/> Health/Nutrition Programs	<input type="checkbox"/> Finance Programs
<input type="checkbox"/> Staff	<input type="checkbox"/> Million Hearts Campaign
<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Programs
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sucession Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Food Safety Programs

## Community Vitality

<input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Workshop Participant	<input type="checkbox"/> ND Historical Society
<input type="checkbox"/> Agri-Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/> Rural Leadership ND
<input type="checkbox"/> Local Business Owner	<input type="checkbox"/> IMPACT presentations
<input type="checkbox"/> Board Member in my community	<input type="checkbox"/> Planning Committee Community, State

## County Extension

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crop Improvement	<input type="checkbox"/> Weed Program
<input type="checkbox"/> Staff	<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer
<input type="checkbox"/> Advisory Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Grants
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Workshops/Projects	<input type="checkbox"/>

## 4-H

<input type="checkbox"/> Camps	<input type="checkbox"/> Staff
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leader
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Volunteer	<input type="checkbox"/> Ambassador
<input type="checkbox"/> Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Project Days
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alumni	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scholarships/Donations
<input type="checkbox"/> Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>

Losing these NDSU-Extension services would directly affect me by:

*\* See attached letter*

## Ag & Natural Resources

<input type="checkbox"/> NDSU Apps/ NDAWN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disaster Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meetigs & Workshops
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Programs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Master Gardener Programs or Trials	<input type="checkbox"/> Farm Business/Mgmt
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community/Home Garden & Horticulture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crop/Livestock Economics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plant/Crop/Seed/ Forage Testing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grazing/Nutrition	<input type="checkbox"/> Manure/Nutrient Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Soil Conservation Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Grants	<input type="checkbox"/> Research Centers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cover Crops
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forestry/NDFS	<input type="checkbox"/> Video/Publications	

Attachment:

My name is Darci Gahner, and I am the Sheridan County Soil Conservation District Manager in McClusky, North Dakota. The Extension Agent in Sheridan County has been a big part of my district's outreach as we partner together with many events throughout the year. We join together to provide horticulture events in the spring and fall, as well as cover crop programs, and annual meetings for the Crop Improvement Association and the Achievement Awards Banquet, which has the majority of the same board members, so we combine to save expenses for everyone. With budget costs across the state for almost everyone, it works nicely to co-sponsor events. I also utilize the Extension agent when it comes to my annual 7<sup>th</sup> grade conservation tour in the fall. She has graciously presented our rangeland topic for the past few years, and is an excellent speaker, who can hold a 7<sup>th</sup> grade child's attention for a full 30 minutes.

If the Extension office in Sheridan County would not be here anymore, it would be very difficult for my district to put on these co-sponsored programs due to funding cuts. There is a vast array of knowledge in our agent Nicole Wardner. She is utilized by many in our small county as well as neighboring counties. Please consider an alternative solution to removing the county agent in Sheridan County.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darci Gahner". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the main text block.