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VP Agricultural Affairs

November 15, 2017

To Keith Peltier and SBARE Committee,

We are ranchers in southeast Sheridan County and recently became aware of the possibility of no longer having our NDSU extension agent, Nicole Wardner, in Sheridan County. We would like to express our concerns of this possible loss.

We would like to take a moment to list all of our extension needs and how extension has educated and improved our ranching knowledge and our business.

This past year Nicole worked very hard for our county in providing drought reports to help Sheridan County ranchers qualify for LFP payments. There was no other entity in the county that we were able to send pictures and/or videos to of our pasture land, water sources, etc. during the drought.

We also utilize the extension office's hay probe to test our feed regularly. After receiving our results on that feed we make any needed adjustments to our feed and rations to provide the best overall nutrition to our cattle. This small task saves money and resources.

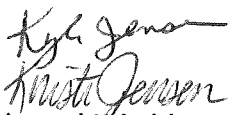
We have been able to attend numerous beef production meetings with educational speakers. These sessions have also greatly improved how we manage our herd. Without these speakers coming to our county, we would not have been able to attend their sessions elsewhere due to the mileage we would need to travel and having to be away from home longer (i.e. during calving).

We also have two daughters that would greatly benefit from our 4H program in the near future. Sheridan County's 4H program is currently the only youth program in the county.

A potential solution to completely eliminating extension in our county would be to make smaller cuts in larger counties with multiple staff/employees where the impact would not be so great on the producers in those counties.

Please reconsider eliminating our extension agent in Sheridan County. The negative effect on farmers and ranchers in Sheridan County if this were to happen would be enormous.

Sincerely,



Kyle and Kristi Jensen
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