

From: owner-ndsu-sbare@listserv.nodak.edu on behalf of [Laib, Anita](#)
To: ndsu.sbare@ndsu.edu
Subject: Sheridan County Extension
Date: Friday, December 15, 2017 5:06:20 PM
Attachments: [SBARE Nicole Sheridan Co.docx](#)
[Sheridan County Extension SBARE.docx](#)

To whom it may concern,

Attached you will find letters in support of keeping Nicole Wardner as the extension agent of Sheridan County. Please read them and take them into deep consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. Our information is listed below. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Sheldon and Anita Laib
Ryeleigh, Rhea, Remington, and Rhett Laib
48 10th Ave SW
Mercer, ND 58559
(701)447-2846

48 10th Av Sw
Mercer, ND 58559
Dec. 14, 2017

Dear SBARE Committee:

Recently, our family attended a meeting at the McClusky Gymnasium to hear about the options for the future of the Extension Agent in Sheridan County. We attended because, although we are not Sheridan County residents, we do utilize the extension agency of Sheridan County much more than that of McLean County. It is in our humble opinion that this agency must NOT be eliminated.

Our 4 children, ranging in ages from 6-16 are all involved in 4-H in Sheridan County, and have been for many years. We started in McLean County, but as our children grew, we realized that Sheridan County has offered more opportunities for them than McLean has. Our children wanted to take part in livestock judging, but the agent in McLean County did not want to spearhead that and there was a lack of interest from McLean County. So, our children turned to Sheridan County where the extension agent was more than happy to take them in and coach them. We did dual enroll for a few years, but when that became too extensive, we made the choice to solely be in Sheridan County. The extension agents in Sheridan County have always been very supportive and encouraging towards our children. Not only has Nicole Wardner helped with livestock judging, but she has given them tips and advice on showing livestock and in the care of livestock. She invited our two oldest to a Stockmen and Stewardship seminar that she put on because she knows how interested they are in the production side of livestock, as well.

Our family has also utilized other aspects of extension in Sheridan County. We have contacted her on numerous occasions to ask about feed rations, crop rotation, planting feedstuffs and hay production. She is an outstanding asset to the county and one that will be greatly missed if her position were to be eliminated. The extension agent's job in Sheridan County is extremely important in a county the size of Sheridan, where the population is small and the pool of resources is even smaller. Her job is not to be taken lightly. There are not many resources for people to seek out in Sheridan County. Whether the question is on animal production, crop production, gardening, home, health, nutrition, youth, or whatever, most people in Sheridan County turn to the extension office because there are no other options and they know that Nicole will do her utmost to provide them with the information that they need and want. Eliminating the positions in smaller counties makes a larger impact than scaling back the extension agents' jobs in larger counties. In larger counties, there are still enough agents to help spread the work load out. By eliminating the office in the smaller counties, a huge hole will be left in the availability of resources.

We were highly disappointed at the meeting in November that there were not a lot of options that SBARE had. To us it sounded as if the only option was for Sheridan County to pay for the agent position themselves or lose it. We believe other options must be researched. When asked about eliminating multiple positions in other counties to balance out so all counties could have at least one agent, it almost seemed as if this option hadn't even been thought of or explored. It seems as though people are rushing to a conclusion of elimination without searching through all options.

In conclusion, we would love to see the extension office in Sheridan County continue to operate. To eliminate that position and office would not only hurt our family and our children, but would also hurt the community of McClusky and the entire county. Nicole has worked hard to provide services for all ages and all areas of Sheridan County and to do away with the extension office would be a great disservice to many, many people, and would be a greater disservice than if you were to scale back an office in a larger county.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Sheldon and Anita Laib

Ryeleigh, Rhea, Remington, and Rhett Laib

48 10th Ave SW
Mercer, ND 58559

Dec 14, 2017

Dear SBARE:

I am writing in regards to the elimination of the Sheridan County Extension Office. I want to support keeping the office open. There are many things I personally use the office for. I have held many offices in the Northern Lights 4-H club in Sheridan County, including president and reporter. I used to be in McLean County 4-H; however, they didn't offer livestock judging so my sisters and I had to enroll in Sheridan County to be able to have a coach and compete. Without this office, I wouldn't be competing in Livestock judging for 4-H and probably wouldn't be a member anymore. Our Extension Agent also helps out local FFA teams. Again, without her help my chapter would not have 3 members place Gold at the State FFA contest and have the team place 7th overall. She has coached me for 3 years now and has helped me improve my scores tremendously. Nicole has also taken the junior 4-H Livestock team and coached them all the way to 3rd place at the state contest with 2 very young members. There are also a lot of things I dislike at the state fair in 4-H contests; however, with the help of our Extension Agent in Sheridan County I have stayed in 4-H. Without her, I would most likely drop out of the program.

The Extension Office not only helps with 4-H, they have information on Crops, Livestock Production, and even Home and Gardening things. They have put on many informational programs for people of all ages to attend. I recently attended one this summer on Stockmen and Stewardship. It was very informational and provided suggestions on making grass last longer during a drought, which was needed this summer.

Many people in neighboring counties come to Nicole if they have questions. Neighboring counties don't offer the many programs that the Sheridan County Extension Office does. If it wasn't for all the information the office has provided to *everyone*, many producers would have to travel over an hour away just to get some information to help out their operation. Also, Nicole is often called on to help out other counties, whether it be to help judge a livestock event at a county fair or to consult on matters of agriculture.

In my opinion, I don't understand why McLean County should be able to have two agents when it takes two of them to do the same job one person is doing in Sheridan County. I think counties should all have at least one agent. You could eliminate a person in Mclean County so that Sheridan County could keep their agent, especially since many people from the eastern part of McLean County consult with the agent from Sheridan County.

Please consider keeping the agent in Sheridan County. She is a very valuable resource to have in our area. She is extremely knowledgeable, creative, caring, and professional individual who is an outstanding asset for this area, and for the state in general.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Ryeleigh Laib