January 5, 2018

SBARE
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The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Oliver County utilizes the expertise of the NDSU Extension Service/Agent in several areas. NRCS works with private landowners, predominantly farmers and ranchers in Oliver County, to develop and implement conservation practices to improve and maintain our natural resources. This gives us the opportunity to work directly with farmers and ranchers, out on the ground, in many areas of their operation. I have listed below several areas that are of great benefit to the producers that we serve.

1. We rely on the NDSU Extension Agent and their research based expertise to make recommendations for chemical treatment for weed and pest management issues. We also count on them for research based expertise in crop diseases. Livestock feed quality and water quality are also issues that producers deal with and can get answers on from the Oliver County Extension office. These are all issues that are part of a comprehensive conservation plan to encompass and address all of our natural resources.

2. NDSU Extension in Oliver County participates in our Soil Conservation District Board meetings to provide information to our SCD board relating to local conservation issues.

3. NRCS and the SCD partner with the Oliver County NDSU Extension Service to provide workshops to our producers in current farming, ranching, and community agriculture related issues.

4. The Oliver County NDSU Extension Agent is involved in our Locally Led Conservation process to identify resource concerns at the local level and is part of our Local Work Group which establishes the ranking questions, based on our resource concerns, for our Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).

The loss of the NDSU Extension Service in Oliver County would eliminate a resource we utilize to provide comprehensive planning in sustaining our nations natural resources. This loss would also eliminate a partner in providing agricultural information to the people in Oliver County. The NDSU Extension Service is an integral part of conservation in Oliver County.

Thank you for your consideration,

Valerie K. Hartman
District Conservationist

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