The State Board of Agricultural Research (SBAR) was established by legislative decree in 1997. It was responsible for budgeting and policy-making associated with the supervision of the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station. The law was changed during the 1999 legislative session to include responsibility for the North Dakota State University Extension Service. SBAR became the State Board of Agricultural Research and Education (SBARE).

SBARE, within the policies of the State Board of Higher Education (SBHE), is responsible for budgeting and policy-making associated with the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station and North Dakota State University Extension.

SBARE responsibilities are to:
- Determine the causes of any adverse economic impacts on crops and livestock produced in the state;
- Develop ongoing strategies for the provision of research solutions and resources to negate adverse economic impacts on crops and livestock produced in this state;
- Develop proactive strategies for NDSU Extension to fulfill the mission of improving the lives and livelihood of the citizens of North Dakota by providing research-based education;
- Implement the strategies developed under bullets 2 and 3, subject to approval by the SBHE;
- Develop, with the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station and NDSU Extension, an annual budget for the operations of these entities;
- Develop a biennial budget request based on its prioritized needs list and submit that request to the president of NDSU and the SBHE, and forward its prioritized needs list and request without modification to the Office of Management and Budget and the appropriations committees of the legislative assembly;
- Maximize the use of existing financial resources, equipment, and facilities to generate the greatest economic benefit from research and extension efforts and to promote efficiency;
- Annually evaluate the results of research and extension activities and expenditures, and report the findings to the Legislative Council and the SBHE;
- Advise the President of NDSU regarding the recruitment, selection and performance of the Vice President for Agricultural Affairs, the NDSU Extension Director and the Station Director; and
- Provide a status report to the budget section of the Legislative Council.

The State Board of Agricultural Research and Education consists of:
- NDSU President or the President’s designee
- NDSU Vice President for Agricultural Affairs *
- North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station Director *
- NDSU Extension Director *
- Five people appointed by Ag Coalition
- Five people appointed in the geographic areas represented by NDSU Extension’s multicounty program units
- North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner *
- Two members of the legislative assembly appointed by the chair of Legislative Council

* serve in ex-officio, nonvoting capacity