

Last week I wrote about the different resources that are available that can help when making farmland leasing agreement decisions. Another important aspect of farmland leasing agreements is the communication between the landlord and renter. Many times this is a piece that can be overlooked but is probably one of the more important parts of farmland leasing agreements. If you are a renter and are putting extra effort into taking care of a piece of land by maintaining the shelterbelts, being a good steward to the land, and/or mowing and cleaning the ditches, that is something the landlord should know because you are adding value to that leasing contract. Many times if you don't tell a landlord about the extra effort you are putting in to take care of a piece of land, they might not realize everything you are doing. Some ways producers are sharing this information to their landlords is by simply visiting or calling their landlords, sending a newsletter to their landlords, or setting up a website about their farm for their landlords to view.

If you are interested in learning more about ways to improve communication between a landlord and renter, NDSU Extension service is sponsoring a **Farmland Leasing Workshop** at the Finley American Legion on **Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm**. This workshop is geared toward landlords, renters, and agribusiness professionals interested in information to help them when making farmland leasing agreement decisions. The topics of the workshop will include historical perspective on farmland values and rents, concepts and practical examples of how to determine equitable rents, information about different rental arrangements, such as cash rent, share rent and flexible cash rent, and how producers can improve their land rental negotiations by enhancing the communication process with landowners by the use of resumes, portfolios and frequent communications to keep landowners informed and educated about their operation. Dwight Aakre and Andy Swenson, Extension farm management specialists, and Willie Huot, Grand Forks County Extension agent, will be the main presenters.

Immediately after the Farmland Leasing Workshop, the **Steele County Barley Council and Wheat Commission representative elections will take place at 4:00 pm** at the Finley American Legion on Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. Each person, landlord, tenant, husband and/or wife, who planted barley in 2012 or intends to plant barley in 2013 and who has not claimed any barley tax refund within the past year (except for duplicate payments), if present in person, is entitled to vote and is eligible to be a candidate for the Steele County Barley Council Representative position. Barley Council County representatives from District II will assemble March 8, 2013, 12:00 pm (noon) at the Chieftain Conference Center located on 60 4th Avenue South in Carrington, ND to elect the district's member of the Barley Council. Any farmer who is a resident of Steele County, and is actively involved in the production of wheat, is eligible to vote and be elected as the Steele County Wheat Commission representative. A wheat farmer must be present to vote but need not be present to be elected for the Wheat Commission. County representatives elected within each district will meet at a later date to elect one commissioner to serve on the governing board of the North Dakota Wheat Commission.

For more information about the Farmland Leasing Workshop in Finley or rental agreements, contact the Steele County Extension office at 701-524-2253. For more information about the Barely Council election, contact the North Dakota Barley Council at 701-239-7200 and for more information about the Wheat Commission election, contact the North Dakota Wheat Commission at 701-328-5111. NDSU is an equal opportunity institution.