

Members of the Appropriations Committee:

I am writing to voice support for Bill #2345, which includes approximately \$8 million in funding for the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station for several capital infrastructure projects at the REC Network. Most of this funding will go to improving and expanding livestock facilities at various Research Extension Centers across our state. This will help enhance the livestock initiative for NDSU Extension that was part of SB 2020 that was funded during the past legislative session. Livestock have tremendous potential for expansion in North Dakota, since we lag far behind Minnesota, Montana, and South Dakota in livestock production.

Please support this funding opportunity for North Dakota agriculture, our number one industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Birdsall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

Mark Birdsall
North Dakota Producer