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June 2008

We are pleased to support the 2008 edition of *North Dakota Agricultural Statistics*. Agriculture and related agribusiness enterprises are the mainstays of North Dakota's economy now and into the future. These enterprises compete in global markets and must be nimble in their strategies. It is vital that farmers, ranchers, agribusiness leaders, and policymakers have up-to-date accurate information from which to make decisions regarding their future operations. This publication is that definitive source of current statistics.

We are pleased that the North Dakota office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is collocated with North Dakota State University. This wonderful partnership allows us to draw at a moment's notice not only on this information, but on the expertise and insights of the NASS staff, as we provide the research and Extension programs that are essential to the future success of North Dakota's agricultural enterprises.

Sincerely,



D. C. Coston
Vice President
Agriculture and University Extension



The North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station is pleased to cooperate in bringing to you the 2008 *North Dakota Agricultural Statistics* issue. This annual statistical summary is an invaluable source of information about North Dakota agriculture.



Agriculture in North Dakota is an unqualified success story, particularly given the profound changes occurring throughout the industry. These changes are being driven by a tremendous expansion of scientific and technical knowledge. Investments in research and education over the past 100 years have led to unparalleled production of food and fiber, and our expanded efforts in biofuels and other value-added products in our crop and livestock enterprises will continue to enhance the state's economy. We are excited to investigate the new opportunities in biofuels/bioproductions, which will enhance the ND economy, revitalize rural communities and reduce our nation's dependence on foreign fossil fuels. The faculty and staff at the College of Agriculture, Food Systems and Natural Resources and the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station are proud of the role they play in the nation's agriculture sector.

As we continue research-based advances and prioritize our research portfolio, it becomes more imperative that accurate crop and livestock production data are readily available. It is with publications like the *North Dakota Agricultural Statistics* that some of our information is disseminated in a useful and accurate fashion. On behalf of the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, I am pleased to help bring this edition to you and hope that 2008 is a successful year for all sectors of the agricultural economy of the state.

Sincerely,

Kenneth J. Grafton
 Dean, College of Agriculture, Food Systems and Natural Resources
 Director, North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station

The NDSU Extension Service is pleased to, once again, be a partner in bringing you the 2008 issue of *North Dakota Agricultural Statistics*. A special thanks goes to all those who provided data to the North Dakota Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service. The Ag Statistics staff compiled this information into a user-friendly format that is available to you in printed form or on the Web.

Agriculture continues to be our largest industry, and it helps drive a healthy and growing state economy. Crop, livestock and economic statistics help us learn from the past and plan for the future. These statistics also showcase the wide diversity of crop and livestock enterprises in our state and how we lead the nation in the production of many commodities.



North Dakota agricultural statistics information is used extensively when identifying and planning NDSU Extension Service educational programs. Information on state-wide crop production trends is used in program planning efforts to ensure that Extension programs are focused on areas of greatest need, while local county information is helpful to county Extension agents in planning programs that will have the greatest impact at the local level.

Extension agricultural programs are designed to help farmers and ranchers improve productivity by adopting crop and livestock best management practices, controlling crop pests, and through rangeland and natural resource management. We do this by "*creating learning partnerships that help adults and youth enhance their lives and communities.*" We are proud to be involved in this partnership with USDA, NASS, North Dakota Field Office.

Sincerely,

Duane Hauck, Director
 NDSU Extension Service