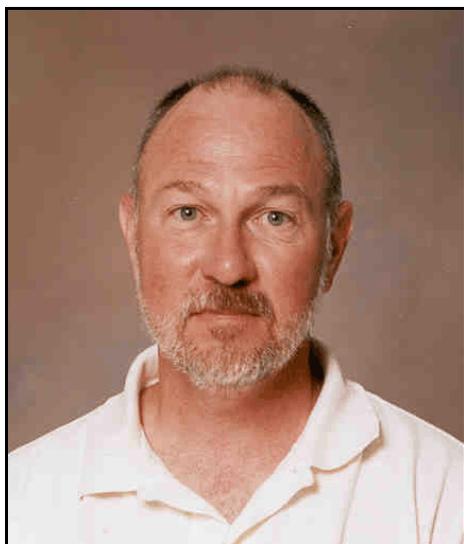


August 2004

The North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station is pleased to cooperate in bringing to you the 2004 “*North Dakota Agricultural Statistics*” issue. This annual statistical summary is an invaluable source of information about North Dakota agriculture.

American agriculture remains an unqualified success story, particularly given the profound changes occurring in 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. Expanded research in biofuels and other value-added products in our crop and livestock enterprises will continue to enhance the state’s economy. The scientists and staff at the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station are proud of the role they play in the nation’s agricultural 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 2004 is a successful year for all sectors of the agricultural economy of the state!



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K F Grafton'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Kenneth F. Grafton, Director  
ND Agricultural Experiment Station