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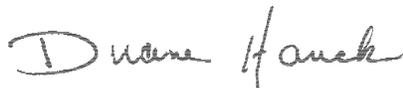
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The NDSU Extension Service is pleased to, once again, be a partner in bringing you the 2004 issue of *North Dakota Agricultural Statistics*. This information provides valuable insight into crop, livestock and economic statistics important to our state. It shows the wide diversity of crop and livestock enterprises produced in North Dakota and how we lead the nation in the production of many commodities. It also shows why agriculture is our largest industry.

Producers, educators, decision-makers and others will find this information helpful as we learn from the past and plan for the future. Agriculture research and extension programs continue to assist producers in learning new ways to earn income through improved marketing strategies and management skills. Our programs also help farmers and ranchers improve productivity through resource management, by adopting crop and livestock best-management practices, by controlling crop pests, and through rangeland management. A special thanks to all those who provided data to the North Dakota 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.

The purpose of the NDSU Extension Service is to "create learning partnerships that help adults and youth enhance their lives and communities." We are proud to be involved in this partnership with the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service.

Sincerely,



Duane Hauck, Director
NDSU Extension Service

