

NDSU NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

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We are pleased to cooperate in bringing to you the 2015 *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 and the challenges that society must overcome in the future. 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, feed 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/bioproducts, which will enhance the ND economy, revitalize rural communities and reduce our nation's dependence on foreign fossil fuels. The faculty and staff in 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 2015 is a successful year for all sectors of the agricultural economy of the state.

Sincerely,



Ken Grafton

Vice President for Agricultural Affairs

Dean – College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources

Director – North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station



**VICE PRESIDENT, DEAN AND DIRECTOR
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