



Support for the *Go Local North Dakota* Initiative

What NDSU Extension Service can do as part of the partnership:

Nutrition, Food Safety and Health

- Food entrepreneurship modules are available at www.ag.ndsu.edu/foodent/entrepreneur/index.html. "Farmers Markets: Keeping Produce Safe before It Gets to the Market" and other relevant materials are featured on this site.
- Extension specialists provide technical assistance with food processing questions and nutrition labels for commercial food products.
- "Garden to table" horticulture/nutrition publications, nutrition fact sheets/recipes featuring North Dakota foods, food safety and food preservation publications are available for consumers and the food industry on this Web site: www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/food_safety_nutrition.html
- NDSU Extension Service specialists and agents collaborate in the Partnership for Healthy Eating and Physical Activity with the North Dakota Department of Health and other entities. Focus areas include local foods and community gardens.
- Extension agents help implement "Healthy North Dakota" community plans across the state. These community partnerships promote the consumption of fruits and vegetables and engaging the community to increase their physical activity levels.

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Ag Diversification

- Employees of the NDSU Extension Service have worked with commercial growers of vegetables in North Dakota who are interested in growing table stock onions and carrots for a warehouse in central Minnesota that would supply local stores in states surrounding Minnesota.
- The NDSU Oakes Research Site assembles cabbage, carrot and onion variety performance trials every year. The NDSU Extension Service makes these trial results available to growers and other interested parties.
- Several NDSU Research Extension Centers in North Dakota are gearing up more for local food production by researching new local food crops.
- Several NDSU Extension Service and Research Extension Center employees have worked with the North Dakota Grape Growers Association (NDGGA) to build local grape production for juice, jellies and wines in North Dakota. More growers are needed to sell to the wineries.
- The NDGGA has people who are working toward production information. This past summer, an NDSU Extension Service Ag Diversification Specialist helped study petiole samples from several vineyards to analyze nutrition use by the grape plants.
- The NDGGA has an annual grape education meeting each year that is open to the public.
- Two farmers in the Cando area have worked with NDSU Extension Service agents to study high tunnel production and cabbage production for fresh market and cole slaw processing.
- The NDSU Extension Service has state specialists and agents in each county of the state who can answer questions on production of crops for local food production.
- The NDSU Extension Service has two ag diversification specialists who work on individual foods projects in North Dakota and are available for consultation.

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Production of Fruits and Vegetables

- Extension specialists and county Extension agents provide production management assistance to the producers of local fruits and vegetables.
- County Extension Web sites contain a variety of information useful for the local production of fruits and vegetables.
- Extension agents have provided assistance to gardeners in the development of business plans and feasibility studies for high-value horticulture crops.
- Extension agents provide assistance in the development of farmers markets. Extension agents also provide technical assistance to vendors.
- Educational activities for local fruit and vegetable producers include meetings and tours. Tours of current high-value horticulture businesses in Canada, Minnesota and North Dakota have taken place. An annual meeting for greenhouse managers is held each year at Minot.

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Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program

- The NDSU Extension Service Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program has available free publications on holistic pest management, crop diversity, transitioning to certified organic, marketing off the farm, sustainable poultry and pork management, and more.
- Books are available for free on-line and in hard copy for a very reasonable price about developing healthy soil, direct marketing beef, insect management, starting a farmers market, farmer innovations, and many other topics.
- SARE has grants for youth, farmers and ranchers, graduate students, professional educators, and researchers to help develop and promote greater sustainability in our food production systems and rural communities.

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Student Learning Experience

- The NDSU Extension Service has Master Gardener (MG) and Junior Master Gardener (JMG) programs. The NDSU Extension Service can provide JMG training and curriculum for teachers as a train-the-trainer program. The curriculum would include a handbook for the students and a leader guide for the teachers/schools. Local master gardeners could be involved in the delivery of this school-based learning experience.
- Extension agents who work with the Family Nutrition Program promote healthful food and gardening as a component of that program. For example, Trish Jessen, Extension agent in Ward County, coordinates a school garden project through the Community Learning Center in Ward County. This effort is currently supported locally with a grant from the Minot Optimist Club.

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