

**OFFICERS AND
DIRECTORS**

PRESIDENT

Jere Ettesvold
40048 180th St
Cyrus, MN 56323

VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Wink
36230 210th St
Cyrus, MN 56323

TREASURER

Dean Meichsner
Farm Credit Services
Morris, MN 56267

SECRETARY

Dan Perkins
10677 Easy Street
Lowry, MN 56349

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEMBER AT LARGE**

Lee Johnston
WCROC
46352 St Hwy 329
Morris, MN 56267

DIRECTORS

Alan Brutlag
27418 280 Street
Wendell, MN 56590

Gene Fynboh
13287 Tanglewood Road NE
Brandon, MN 56315

Ed Hegland
Route 3 Box 64
Appleton, MN 56208

John Mahoney
47359 180th St
Morris, MN 56267

Carolyn Peterson
1170 70th St NW
Hancock, MN 56244

Clinton Schuerman
945 60th St SW
Danvers, MN 56231

Jeff Swenson
11810 County Rd 5
Kensington, MN 56343

BARNES - AASTAD

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION RESEARCH ASSOCIATION, INC.

Morris, Minnesota 56267

12 March 2010

Dear Chairman Peterson,

The Barnes-Aastad Soil and Water Conservation Research Association is a non-profit organization of farm managers and agri-businesses supporting the research mission of the USDA-Agricultural Research Service and the North Central Soil Conservation Research Laboratory in Morris, MN.

For 52 years, scientists at the USDA's Agricultural Research Services' North Central Soil Conservation Research Lab, Morris, Minnesota, in collaboration with farmers, public and private sector scientists, have conducted research on soils, water, crops and cropping systems of local, national and international significance. New bioenergy crops, farming systems and technologies were developed that helped farmers and rural communities conserve natural resources and adopt food, feed and biofuel production systems that are environmentally, economically and socially sustainable.

Fiscal Year 2011 Request / Project and Funding Request Details

Based on numerous public concerns, the Barnes-Aastad Water and Soil Conservation Research Association in support of the Lab's mission requests new permanent funding of \$1,000,000 in FY2011 to fill two research scientist positions (Integrated Cropping Systems Agronomist and a New Crops Breeding position) and to restore operational expenses which have eroded for many years due to the absorption of inflationary costs. In 2008, a stakeholders' meeting identified these two research scientist positions to help improve the economic return to agricultural producers and enhance sustainability of agricultural enterprises in the upper Midwest. These positions will add to the strength of an interdisciplinary research team working on climate change, bioenergy, and cropping systems research.

The Integrated Cropping Systems agronomist will apply ecological principles to the design and management of sustainable and multifunctional systems for production of bioenergy and food-use crops without sacrificing food security, will provide farmers with urgently needed research-based answers and solutions to mitigate climate change by developing cropping systems that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and sequester carbon.

The New Crops Breeding position will render on-station and on-farm research results into practical ideas to accelerate the development of renewable, next-generation biofuel crops and maximize crop yields while minimizing fertilizer and pesticide use.

Historical Funding

The North Central Soil Conservation Research Laboratory is funded by federal appropriations to the USDA's Agricultural Research Service. The amount appropriated for Fiscal Year 2010 was \$2,649,000, which provided 28 staff-years. The President's budget request for Fiscal Year 2011 is identical to the Fiscal Year 2010 amount.

Appropriations Account

Funding for the North Central Soil Conservation Research Laboratory is appropriated under the account titled "Agricultural Research Service, Salaries and Expenses" in the annual Agriculture Appropriations bill.

Why The Funds Can't Come From a Competitive Grant or a Private Source

The research conducted at this facility is an inherently governmental function, and has been financed by federal appropriations since the laboratory's inception.

Why This Is a Good Use of Taxpayer Funds

National and international food and energy markets are rapidly changing. As a result, farmers and rural communities are facing new challenges to produce enough food, feed and biofuel in a sustainable manner, while conserving natural soil and water resources and protecting the environment. In view of predicted climate change, emerging public concern for a balance between food and bioenergy production and security, and natural resources conservation, the need is urgent for multifunctional systems to produce food, feed and bioenergy, and to help farmers and rural communities respond to emerging challenges.

The Recipient of the Funds

United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Research Service
Jamie L. Whitten Building
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Summary

On behalf of the Barnes-Aastad Association, I appreciate your consideration of this request for additional funds to support the mission of the North Central Soil Conservation Research Laboratory in Morris, MN.

Best Regards,


Jere Ettesvold

RESEARCH – THE KEY TO ADVANCEMENT IN AGRICULTURE