

Williston Research Extension Center: Northern Plains Domain

Contact Person: Neil Riveland, Assistant Director/Research Agronomist-Williston Research Extension Center. Email: neil.riveland@ndsu.edu. Voice: 701-774-4315. Web Page: <http://www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/willisto/> Address: 14120 Highway 2, Williston, ND 58801.

Location of Domain: 40° 8' N latitude, 103° 44' W longitude, including all of Section 25 and NE ¼ of Section 36, T154N, R102W in Judson Township in Williams County, ND. In 2001, a 160-acre irrigation site was added that is located in Nesson Valley Township in the NW¼ of Section 12, T154N, R97W in Williams County - 48° 8' N latitude, 103° 44' W longitude.

History: The Williston Research Extension Center (WREC) was established in 1907 and was relocated to its present site in 1954. It is an 800-acre dryland agricultural research farm located in northwestern North Dakota near the city of Williston, 14 miles from the Montana border near the confluence of the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers on the west end of Lake Sakakawea. Formal cooperation between the WREC and Montana State's Eastern Agricultural Research Center (EARC) at Sidney began in January 1994. A single director runs both centers to coordinate, broaden, and enhance the research programs and educational delivery systems for the MonDak region (northwestern North Dakota and eastern Montana).

Key Characteristics: The WREC's current research program is aimed at increasing the productivity of dryland and irrigated agricultural crops while maintaining or improving the soil resource base in the semi-arid MonDak region. The WREC emphasizes crop variety testing as well as evaluation of crop cultural practices, cropping systems, and soil and water conservation practices that will support more intensive cropping practices.

Existing Infrastructure: Collaborations exist with several agencies including the National Weather Service-weather observation station; NDAWN (North Dakota Ag Weather Network)-weather observation and weather and disease forecasting; U.S. Department of Agriculture Plant Materials Center - grass species; NDSU Integrated Pest Management program; NDSU Extension Service- outreach education; Montana State University (MSU) Extension Service- outreach education; Montana State University - winter wheat development and pulse crop evaluation; Williston State College - adult farm and ranch management; USDA, ARS, Northern Plains Agricultural Research Lab at Sidney, MT - irrigation; MSU Eastern Ag Research Center at Sidney, MT- small grains for ethanol production, safflower variety development and malt barley; Williston Chamber of Commerce Energy Committee - biotreatment of oily waste.

Facilities: Eleven staff members are employed at the WREC Center. Facilities include farm, storage and machine buildings and a state approved seed condition plant. In 1998, the Ernie French Center was built, an office complex that includes a large conference room with seating for up to 200 people. The room is equipped with an overhead digital projector and a dedicated computer with Internet access on a T-1 line. A small conference room has a Polycom camera and large screen tv/monitor for video conferencing. The Center is located on US Highway #2, just ¼ mile from the Junction of US #2 and US #85. Williston is served by Great Lakes Airline (United) and also has Amtrak railroad service.