4-18-1997

Dedication of Agricultural Research Station

Max S. Baucus
Printing, Graphics & Direct Mail
ONBASE SYSTEM
Indexing Form

Senator * or Department*: BAUCUS

Instructions:
Prepare one form for insertion at the beginning of each record series.
Prepare and insert additional forms at points that you want to index.
For example: at the beginning of a new folder, briefing book, topic, project, or date sequence.

Record Type*: Speeches & Remarks

MONTH/YEAR of Records*: April-1997
(Example: JANUARY-2003)

(1) Subject*: Agriculture
(select subject from controlled vocabulary, if your office has one)

(2) Subject* Video Tape Dedication of Agricultural Research Station, Sidney, MT

DOCUMENT DATE*: 04/18/1997
(Example: 01/12/1966)

* "required information"

CLICK TO PRINT
Remarks of Senator Max Baucus
Video Tape for Dedication of
Agricultural Research Station
Sidney, Montana

April 18, 1997

Hello everybody. It's good to be speaking to you today at the dedication of this important new facility in Sidney.

I'd like to thank folks like John Franklin who have been so helpful in making this addition a reality. But most importantly, I want to thank you all -- the people of Sidney. If it weren't for your tremendous community spirit, we would not be celebrating today.
Popular myth has it that when the Pilgrims came to America, the Native Americans taught them to plant a fish in the soil next to their corn stalks -- an early form of fertilizer. That might just be a myth, but it points out two things.

First, it shows how important agriculture is to our country. From our earliest days, we have relied on what the soil would yield.

And second, it shows how far we’ve come in terms of what we know about agriculture and cultivation techniques. Gone are the days when we planted fish in the ground for fertilizer.
EXPANDING WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT AGRICULTURE

Yet after all these years, we still don’t know everything. We are constantly expanding on and improving what we know about agriculture.

That’s exciting. Because that means we have not yet reached the limit of what we can achieve.

We can produce more disease-resistant plants. We can increase our yields. And we can improve their nutritional value. Crops that will feed the world in the 21st Century. High Protein hard wheats and new low saturate oil safflower varieties. More research will continue to advance what we know about them.
And that is why Agricultural research is so important.

WHY SIDNEY RESEARCH STATION IS IMPORTANT

There are three good reasons for expanding the research facility here in Sidney. First, it is in a central location. There isn't a comparable research station within 600 miles. That means the Sidney station covers the better part of four states. The information and data that are uncovered here in Sidney will teach Montana -- and the rest of the world -- how best to farm their crops.
Second, it makes economic sense. The station just east of here in Williston will be doing research that is complementary. The data gathered at these two outposts will be shared. And there will be no chance for duplication. That's smart use of money.

And third, dedicated professionals like Dr. Neal Spencer and Jerry Bergman are doing work that is vital to Montana's farmers and ranchers. They have listened to local producers the needs of folks right around here. They have seen first hand the devastation of leafy spurge and soil erosion. They have attacked the most serious problems that Montana farmers face.
And already we are noticing results. We are learning new techniques for getting rid of leafy spurge. Instead of using labor and time-intensive insecticides, we know that a little bug called a flea beetle can do that work for us. That’s an advance that will make a real difference to Montana’s ranchers.

With people like Neal and Jerry, there is no limit to what we can learn from the Research Station here in Sidney.

The expansion of the Agricultural Research Station here in Sidney will help to make sure that Montana stays on the forefront of agricultural advancements.
That means Montana’s family farms can have a fighting chance. That they’ll still be around for the next generation.

CONCLUSION

I believe -- and I know you do too -- that Montana’s agricultural products are the best in the world. And that reputation is spreading.

With global markets opening up every day, the barley grown in Sweet Grass and the wheat grown right here in Sidney are going to be in high demand.
Montana ranchers and farmers will be called upon to feed the world in the 21st Century.

And perhaps some day we will look back and think that low saturate oil safflower varieties are as primitive as planting a fish in the ground. I look forward to that day.

But until then, our work is not done. In order to make sure the station in Sidney remains the best in the country, we need to secure more funding. We need to raise $8 million more to finish the lab. It won't be easy. I will be counting on you all in this effort. I am confident, though, that with the people of Sidney behind me, we can accomplish anything.
It is with great pride that I join you in dedicating this new facility and dedicating ourselves to a bright future for Montana’s agriculture.

Thank you for your time. And enjoy the open house.