

## **Attachment G**

### **Economic Benefit**

The PRO-AG GRANT will help Ference Agronomy LLC help develop and employ the future of agriculture. These employees are able to make a good wage to support their college education or their own production operations. I will have hired 2 people with the acceptance of this grant money. The grant will help my bottomline to be able to serve more customers and help promote the products of precision agronomy. Producers will have the opportunity to save money only covering the acres needed for application. Only spraying weeds in a pasture instead of mass treatment. The dollars that are spent on chemicals can reduce to 20 percent on a pasture. That can be up to 35 dollars an acre less. On a quarter of ground, you could spend 5,000 dollars on a field now you are only spending 980 dollars. This is on 160 acres. The savings for drones to an operation is endless. Ference Agronomy last year served 20 different farming operations. Two more drones I would make the argument we could see the potential of 40 different families in 5 different counties. Central Nebraska will have the potential to spend more dollars in local business and not chemical companies because of our ability to point out problems and treat the exact areas.

### **Continued Economic and Technological impacts.**

The development of this technology will continue to increase for years to come, but we need to start accepting the technology now we are ready. This grant allows us to help learn the ideas and principles of drone technology. Application and crop mapping is something that can save farmers thousands of dollars if utilized correctly. Proving more money for local businesses and operations. Ference agronomy is trying to make this happen and experience is allowing them to lead the way. We want to use this money to build a model that others in rural Nebraska can follow. This will provide more business in rural Nebraska and services to save farmers across Nebraska money. This grant is more than just getting two more drones. It is an accelerator for Ference Agronomy LLC to be the help line and mentor to others across the state. This grant and this opportunity provides short term economics of job creation and money saving for farms. Long term we are looking at 100 hundreds of business developments of this model which was possible because of the PRO- Ag Grant for agronomists and applicators like Ference Agronomy.

### **Water Conservation-**

Water conservation is a huge part of our industry, and we look into how drones will help in this area. First I think about water safety, these drones are able to turn off the drone over waterways and bodies of water. This allows our surface water not be directly polluted by pesticides. Also we are directly applying on problem areas not mass treatment. This makes the amount of pesticides in water lower. Ference Agronomy is reaching into forms of fertilizers and how to make them more efficient to the crop. This involves using drones to provide the proper form and structure of nitrogen to decrease the application of nitrogen without losing yield. This needs to be figured out with the rising Nitrate levels in multiple locations in the state. The Drones will allow us to do this research and find the answer to help the environment and water safety. So our focus with drones will be on the quality of water in the Nebraska vs Quantity.