

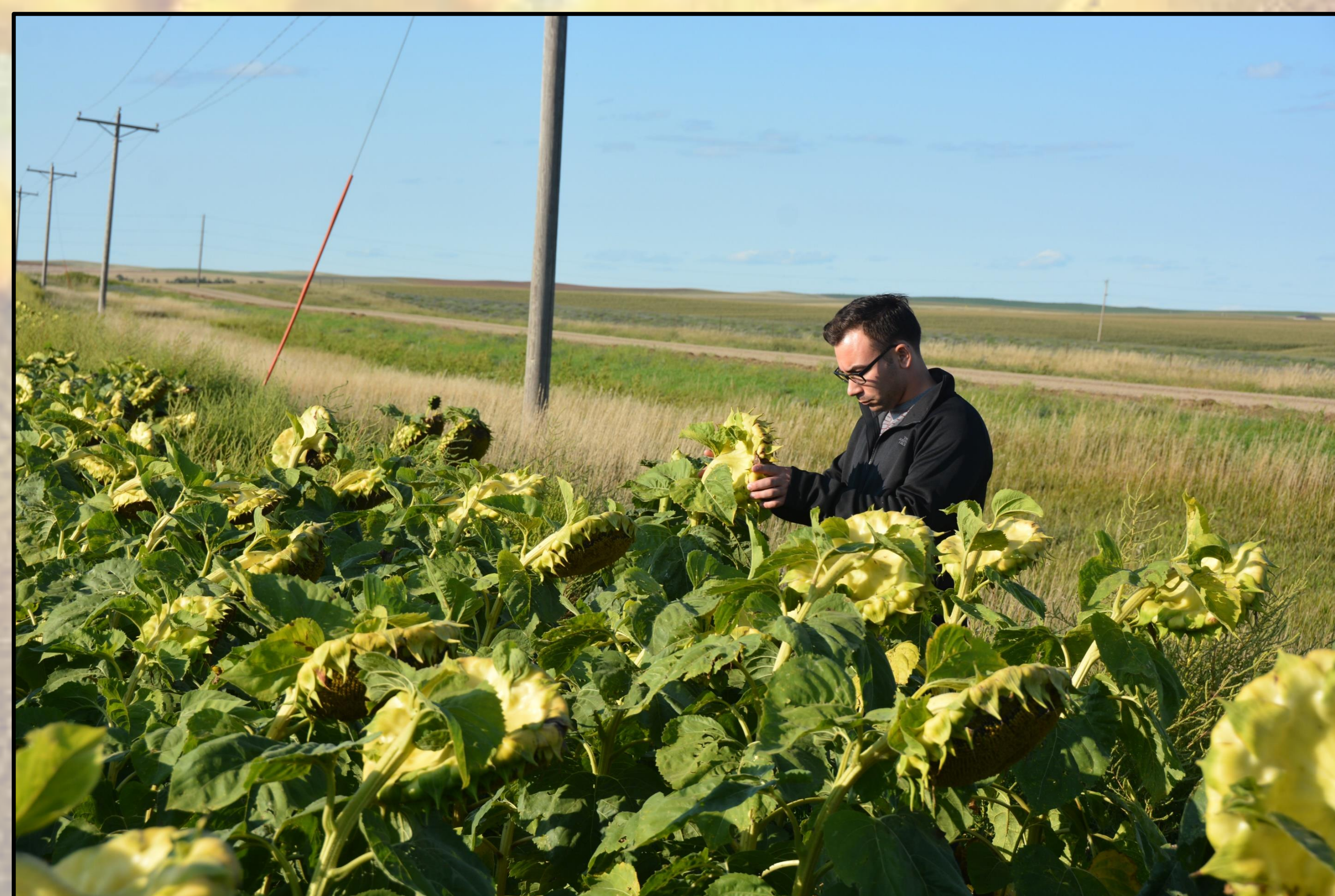
South Dakota State University Extension Efforts in Sunflower

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Extension Education

South Dakota State University (SDSU) Extension personnel work directly with the farming community in South Dakota to solve agronomic issues. One of the crops covered by SDSU Extension are sunflowers. During the growing season, sunflowers can be negatively affected by insect pests and diseases. To address these issues, SDSU Extension personnel work to educate stakeholders as well as develop management recommendations. The extension efforts consist of producing research-based publications and by connecting with stakeholders through public outreach. All of these efforts stem from applied research that is ongoing in sunflower.



Applied Research

- Sunflower research conducted by SDSU and collaborating organizations, such as the SD Department of Agriculture, SD Oilseeds Council, and National Sunflower Association, helps provide new information regarding sunflower production in South Dakota.
- Research efforts cover a variety of different areas including field pest and pollinator surveys, variety trials, and pesticide efficacy.
- Results from sunflower research are used for educational purposes to assist growers with their operations.

Educational Materials

- SDSU Extension gathers research-based information and produces new, updated publications each the year.
- Extension publications include annual pest management guides, pest identification guides, fact sheets, and multiple iGrow newsletter articles (10 sunflower-related articles published in 2017).
- Information is distributed at various public outreach events, SDSU Extension Regional Centers located across the state, and online at iGrow.org.

Public Outreach

- Public outreach is mostly achieved through extension events as well as other local events across the state.
- Examples of outreach include SDSU field days and integrated pest management schools, commercial and private pesticide applicator trainings, Dakotafest, and the SD State Fair.
- SDSU Extension occasionally uses alternative methods like webinars, radio segments, and social media to connect with stakeholders.
- National Sunflower Association Survey Training held every two years.



Summary

- Through research and extension activities, South Dakota State University Extension supports stakeholders regarding important insect pests, diseases, and agronomic topics.
- Extension education makes up a key part of maintaining the success of sunflower production in South Dakota
- In the future, extension efforts will be aimed at continuing outreach and providing further support to sunflower producers in South Dakota and neighboring states.

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