



**Research Center**

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May 28, 2004

Jeff Jacobsen  
Dean and Director  
College of Agriculture/MAES  
PO Box 172860  
Bozeman, MT 59717-2860

Dear Jeff:

Please find attached the request from Dr. Robert Evans, Research Leader at USDA-ARS Northern Plains Agricultural Research Laboratory for a long-term land lease or donation of 2 acres of land from the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station to the USDA-ARS.

I recommend that MAES, MSU, State of Montana donate this property to the USDA-ARS and make an official announcement at the EARC Field Day Event July 13, 2004. These 2 small strips of land were excluded from the 10 acres of land deeded by MAES in 1962 because a lateral for irrigation existed in these narrow strips for the purpose of providing water for irrigation to the EARC irrigated lands west of Highway 200.

However, in 1985 the lateral was eliminated when Highway 200 was under construction and the water source for irrigating the EARC lands west of Highway 200 was relocated to the north side of the EARC. So the 2 acres of land now serve no usable function for EARC.

With the attached request by the USDA-ARS and the fact that the USDA-ARS provides EARC staff office and laboratory space in the USDA-ARS facilities without recharges or other charges, I highly recommend that MAES (MSU) donate this land to the USDA-ARS.

Please let me know if you need additional information. I thank you advance for your assistance in handling this request.

Sincerely,

JERALD W. BERGMAN  
Superintendent

JWB/jjj  
Encl.

Cc: Mal Westcott  
Robert Evans

United States Department of Agriculture  
Research, Education, and Economics  
Agricultural Research Service

May 26, 2004

Dr. Jerald W. Bergman, Superintendent  
Eastern Agricultural Research Center  
Montana State University  
1501 N. Central Avenue  
Sidney, Montana 59270

Dear Jerry:

As you know our program has grown significantly in recent years and with the construction of new greenhouses and a quarantine building we are fast running out of equipment and vehicle storage areas and fire access is becoming a problem. We are in desperate need of some additional space to expand.

One possibility for expansion would be the use of two small strips of land adjacent to the Northern Plains Agricultural Research Laboratory (NPARL) here in Sidney. One strip of land is approximately 90 feet by 847 feet long that was excluded when Montana State University deeded approximately 10 acres to the USDA-ARS in 1962. This approximately 1.75 acre parcel lies between our west fence and a large drainage ditch to west. This area is not currently usable for research due to its long narrow shape and the drainage maintenance easement. The second strip is a very narrow area (about 25 ft x 388 ft) along the south side of NPARL that was also previously excluded. These two areas have become a significant source of weeds and are not usable by either MSU or ARS for any purpose.

I would like to request that Montana State University either donate the almost 2 acres of previously excluded land to USDA/ARS or grant us a long-term lease on this property. We would fence this area and make improvements to the surface drainage and equipment storage. I believe that this transfer or lease would indirectly benefit both our research programs through improved weed control and areas to store additional equipment.

We will be doing some re-fencing as part of our new construction (probably next summer) and it would be an advantage to move it back to the drainage ditch and to the southern boundary at that time. Moving the fences to enclose these relatively small areas would also enhance our on-site security by moving the existing fence away from the windbreak (e.g., people can't climb trees to get over the fence) and improved fire access to NPARL buildings. We would also like to explore

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Northern Plains Agricultural Research Laboratory  
Agricultural Systems Research Unit  
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the possibility of covering the drainage ditch (piped) through that section and then putting the fence along the property line.

A copy of the existing deed and a recent retracement survey of the site are attached with the areas in question shown as crosshatched. Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Sincerely



Robert G. Evans

Supervisory Agricultural Engineer and Facilities Coordinator

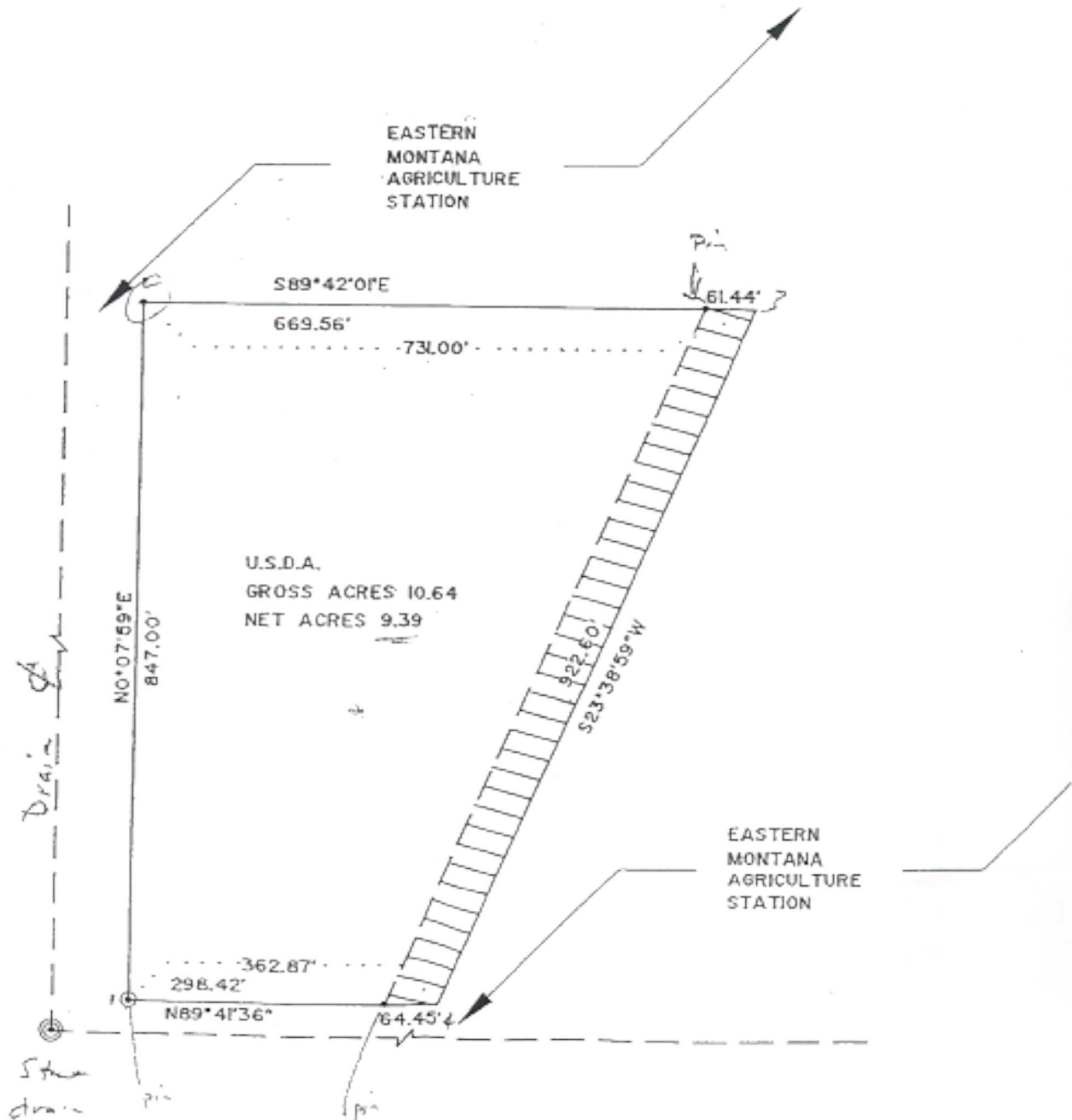
cc: Will Blackburn  
Lynn Williams  
Mellissa Brockes  
Tom Shanower

Attachments: 2

# Certificate of Survey

Retracement Survey

Within Southwest 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4  
Sect 28, T23N, R59E  
Richland County, Montana



1995 Retracement Survey  
L. S. S.