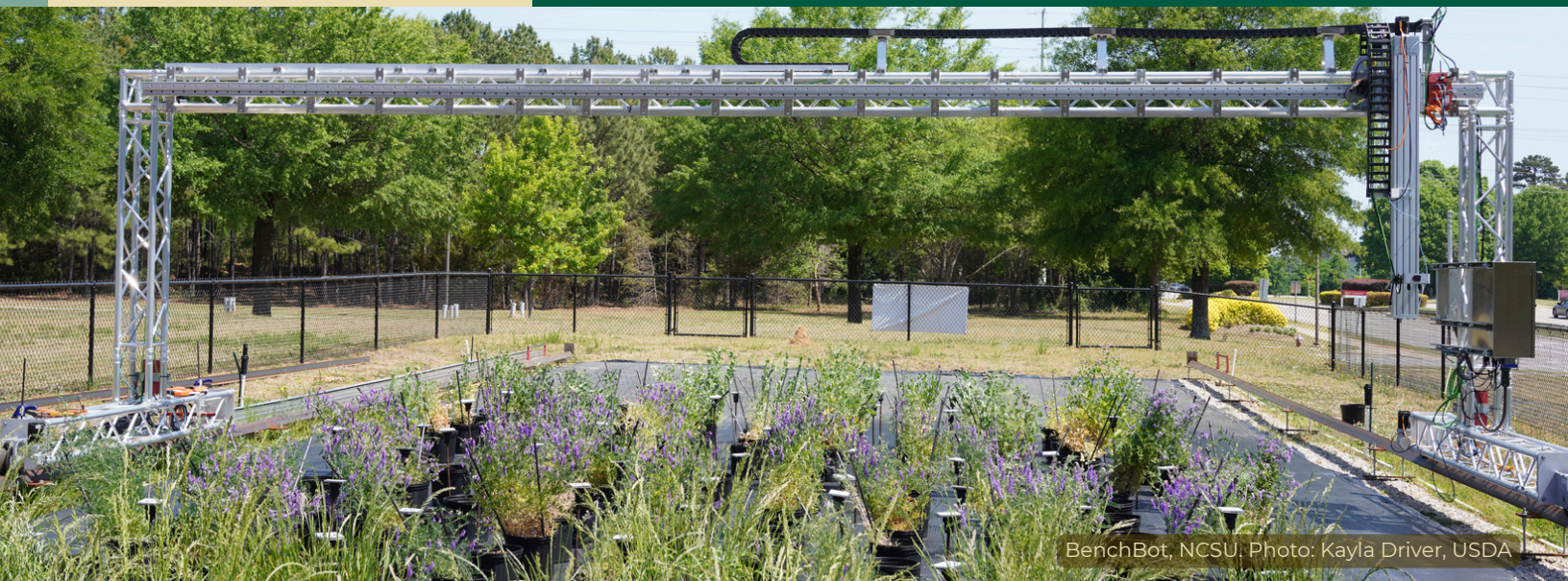




DASH NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1



BenchBot, NCSU. Photo: Kayla Driver, USDA

QUICK STATS

3 » V3 BenchBots installations in the works

61 » Plant species imaged & stored

63 » MonoCams deployed

17 » MultiCam deployments

5 » Convenings, Scoping & Protocol Meetings



IT'S BEEN A BUSY 6 MONTHS!

We're excited to share some key DASH achievements and news from the first half of 2026! From technology system updates to location developments, we've been hard at work laying the groundwork for artificial intelligence (AI) solutions to the most pressing problems facing American farmers.

We look forward to continued collaboration and new partnerships as DASH expands imaging infrastructure and phenotyping capacity nationwide.
Best,

**Steven Mirsky, Amanda Hulse-Kemp,
and the DASH Team**

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www.digitalagsystemshub.org



Coming Soon:



ModCam Makeover – The next generation of the sensors that power PlantMap3D, called **ModCam**, is a significant step forward in design and flexibility. Taking on the best of its MonoCam and MultiCam predecessors, ModCam V2 is smaller, lighter, and more affordable than ever, as well as easier to both manufacture and install. Perhaps the biggest upgrade is scalability. Users can add as many modular computing units as needed, with each supporting one to four cameras. This expanded sensor capacity surpasses the first generation and allows for deployments of almost any size. Looking ahead, the team is working to add compatibility with multiple camera types to further ModCam’s increased accessibility.



Imaging Underway

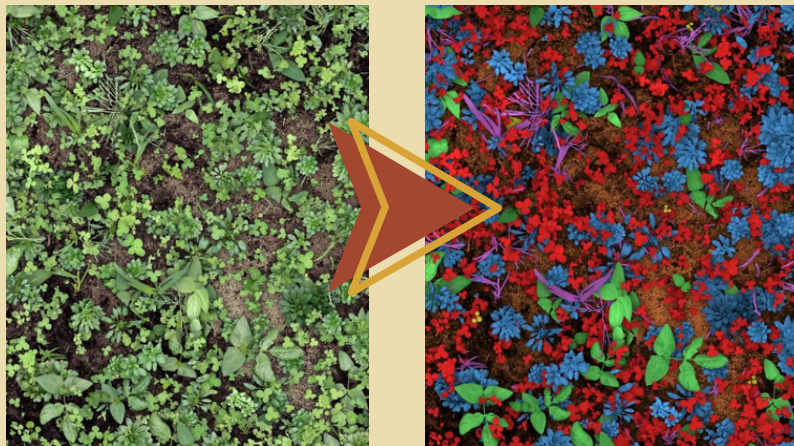
MonoCam systems are deployed at 63 locations in 31 states across the U.S., and MultiCam systems are currently out on 17 deployments. As our ModCam technology comes online, we expect to see even greater imaging power and geographic expansion from this real-time imaging hardware and software system.

Most recently, sparks flew at a ModCam system installation at the Grand Farm campus in Fargo, ND. This is a part of DASH’s participation in a new USDA initiative called the National Proving Grounds. (See page 4).

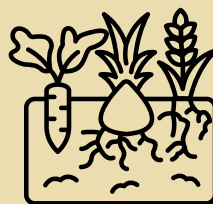


ModCam Installation, Grand Farm, ND. Photos: Grand Farm

AgIR Expansions



The Agricultural Image Repository (AgIR) continues to expand, as imaging partners come on board and we launch a new effort to add soil images in addition to plants. The repository is now available on SCINet, with public access coming soon!



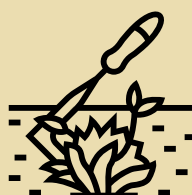
Cash Crops

+3 for a total of 8 species



Cover Crops

19 species completed



Weeds

+6 for a total of 34 species

BenchBot Developments



Benchbot V3 at work at NCSU. Photo: Kayla Driver, USDA

BenchBot V3 is here and we're loving its hyper-precise rail system! Deployment updates:

- **Raleigh, NC - ARS/NC State Campus:** The V3 system installation is complete!
- **Fargo, ND – Grand Farm Fargo Campus:** We anticipate a BenchBot V3 installation in Q3 of 2026. We'll be working with the American Sugarbeet Association, with weeds and Cercospora Leaf Spot (CLS) as the first targets.
- **Davis, CA - ARS/University of California, Davis Campus:** A BenchBot V3 installation is targeted here for 2026.



National Proving Grounds

Powered by DASH!



Senator John Hoeven, Dr. Steven Mirsky and USDA REE Under Secretary Scott Hutchins, at the NPG announcement at Grand Farm, ND. Photo: Grand Farm

The USDA recently rolled out its bold new plan to **create a National Proving Grounds** (NPG) for the rapidly expanding industry of precision ag tech. The goal is to provide U.S. farmers and the agricultural industry with trusted evaluations and ratings for the range of new technologies, from established equipment companies to small start-ups.

The program will be led by USDA with Grand Farm providing project management. The pilot program is already underway this summer in two locations: Grand Farm's Fargo, ND campus and and Grand Farm's University of Georgia campus in Perry, GA.

First up on the docket is weed detection and precision weed control tech, and we're excited to announce that DASH's ModCam platform, powered by the AgIR, is playing a key role in the evaluation of these emerging technologies!

The team met in Fargo in late April, and then returned in mid-May to finish ModCam installation and training.

Stay tuned!



Photo: Grand Farm

Convenings, Scoping & Protocol Meetings, Oh My!

All this tech fine-tuning and partnership development takes time...and meetings!

Here's a sampling of where we've been for the first half of the year, from stakeholder convenings, to exploring new cropping systems and partnerships, installing ModCam, building BenchBots and training users.

April 2026: Grand Farm, Fargo, ND

- NPG announcement was made!
- We had a spring meeting with sugarbeet researchers to refine CLS phenotyping and imaging methods.
- We met with Extension weed scientists to fine-tune protocols for NPG.
- The DASH team also met to finalize imaging deployment plans for BenchBot and MonoCam for NDSU and ARS research and on-farm sites, nail down a data collection strategy, define metadata standards to ensure 2026 season data is training-ready and align on a dataset strategy for sugarbeet genotypes under real-world field conditions. Whew!



Photos: Grand Farm



Late May 2026: ModCam Installation in Fargo



Photos: Grand Farm

Early May 2026: Scoping visit to Tifton, GA

ModCam systems are in place and running – and watch for a BenchBot here in 2027!

Late April 2026: Western Tour

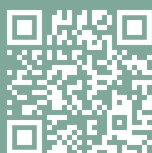
We met with the Western Growers Association (WGA) and visited Reservoir Co., a robotics and precision ag incubator, during an informative tour of the California AgTech space, from Davis to Salinas. Promising partnerships are in the works!

June 2026: Fargo, Georgia & the University of CA, Davis

We sampled imaging in Fargo and Georgia for the NPG, held a kickoff MonoCam sampling session for sugarbeet work in Fargo, and made a scoping visit to UC Davis with stakeholders looking for AI solutions to olive-knot disease.

WHAT'S A CONVENING?

We're glad you asked! Learn what goes into these specialized meetings that lay the groundwork for each new partnership. >>>



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