

Biennial Report
2001-2003

NORTH DAKOTA

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

*Promoting a healthy economic,
environmental and social
climate for agriculture
and the rural community.*

Roger Johnson
Commissioner



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A Message from the Commissioner

My Fellow North Dakotans,

Make no mistake about it: North Dakota's 30,000 family farmers and ranchers are leaders in American agriculture. Thanks to them, our state leads the nation in the production of almost a dozen commodities, including such important crops as hard red spring wheat, durum and barley.

Being a leader is not easy, especially in agriculture. Crop and livestock production has suffered from too much moisture in some areas of the state and drought in others. Insects, plant diseases and weeds have caused millions of dollars in damage. Furthermore, producers must contend with a marketing system that rewards other segments of the food economy at the expense of actual production. Nevertheless, North Dakota producers have persevered in the face of natural calamities and difficult economic circumstances to continue providing safe and abundant food and fiber for our state, our nation and the world.

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture is proud to help farmers and ranchers meet the challenges of modern, production agriculture.

We help farmers obtain crop protection products needed to lessen or prevent pest damage to crops and livestock. Our mediators and negotiators provide producers with low-cost agricultural mediation and financial counseling services. New markets were found for North Dakota products. Thanks to the efforts of our marketing staff, we have also helped North Dakota companies develop new products and find new markets. Livestock Industries protected the industry by ensuring the health of livestock and the financial solvency of dealers.

North Dakotans can be as proud of the work of their Department of Agriculture as they are of our state's family farmers and ranchers. The men and women of the Department are themselves proud to serve this vital industry, the backbone of North Dakota's economy and society.

Sincerely,

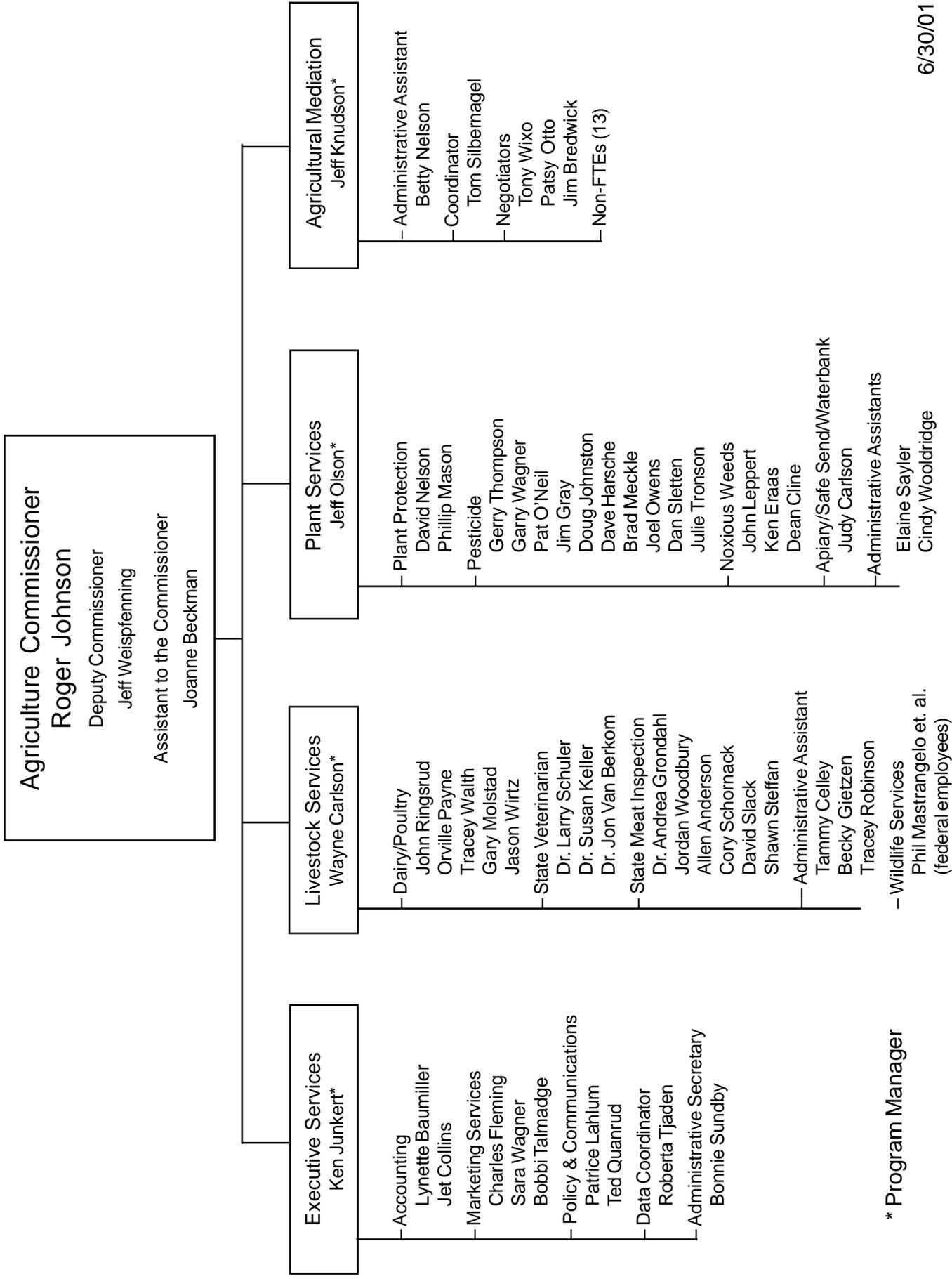
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light gray circular background.

Roger Johnson
Agriculture Commissioner

Mission

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture fosters the long-term well-being of North Dakota by promoting a healthy economic, environmental and social climate for agriculture and the rural community through leadership, advocacy, education, regulation and other services. To carry out its mandate, the North Dakota Department of Agriculture is committed to the following responsibilities:

- Serving as an advocate for family farmers and ranchers and for the rural community.
- Providing services that ensure safe, high-quality and marketable agricultural products.
- Developing and expanding markets for agricultural commodities and value-added products.
- Reducing the risk of financial loss to agricultural producers and to buyers and sellers of agricultural commodities.
- Safeguarding livestock and other domestic animals from communicable diseases.
- Ensuring compliance with laws administered by the Department of Agriculture through understandable regulations, information, education and even-handed enforcement.
- Ensuring human safety and a healthy environment through proper use of pesticides.
- Verifying the contents of pesticides, fertilizers, soil conditioners, animal feeds and veterinary medicines.
- Reducing agricultural losses from noxious weeds, predatory animals, insects and diseases.
- Gathering and disseminating information concerning agriculture to the general public.
- Providing fair and timely dispute resolution services to agricultural producers, creditors and others.



* Program Manager

HISTORY

The office of commissioner of agriculture and labor was established in the North Dakota Constitution of 1889. In 1964, voters amended the constitution, dividing the office into two entities – commissioner of agriculture and commissioner of labor – and lengthening the term of office from two years to four. The title of the office was changed to agriculture commissioner by a constitutional amendment, approved by the voters in 1996.

Commissioners of Agriculture and Labor

Henry T. Helgesen	1889-1892
Nelson Williams	1893-1894
Andrew H. Laughlin	1895-1896
Henry U. Thomas	1897-1900
Rollin J. Turner	1901-1904
William C. Gilbreath	1905-1914
Robert F. Flint	1915-1916
John N. Hagan	1917-1921
Joseph A. Kitchen	1921-1932
John Husby	1933-1934
Theodore Martell	1935-1936
John N. Hagan	1937-1938
Math Dahl	1939-1964
Arne Dahl	1965-1966

Commissioners of Agriculture

Arne Dahl	1966-1974
Myron Just	1974-1980
H. Kent Jones	1981-1988
Sarah M. Vogel	1989-1997

Agriculture Commissioners

Roger Johnson	1997-present
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Duties and Responsibilities

Originally, the commissioner's principal duties were the collection and publication of agricultural and labor statistics and enforcement of regulations. The commissioner was also the commissioner of immigration and was responsible for promoting the state for settlement and immigrants. Over the span of a century, the responsibilities of the department expanded to include a leadership role in the formulation of policies affecting the state's agricultural industries, the advocacy of the needs and concerns of farmers and ranchers on the state and national levels, the administration of fair and timely mediation services to farmers and ranchers, the promotion and marketing of North Dakota products and the dissemination of information concerning agricultural issues to the governor, Legislature and the general public. The collection and publication of statistics is now the responsibility of

the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. The office of commissioner of immigration was abolished in the 1930s, ironically at a time when the state began a long period of declining population.

The powers and duties of the agriculture commissioner "must be prescribed by law," according to Article V, Section 2 of the State Constitution. The following responsibilities are set forth in various sections of the North Dakota Century Code:

- Promotion of improved marketing conditions for North Dakota products §4-01-19.
- Regulation of dairy and poultry industries §4-30 and §4-13.2.
- Licensing and bonding of livestock auction markets and individuals selling livestock §36-04 and §36-05.

- Control and eradication of bee diseases and licensing of beekeepers §4-12.2.
- Development, supervision and participation in and of programs to protect plant life from disease and insects §4-32-01 and §4-33.
- Administration of a mediation service to resolve differences between financially distressed farmers and their creditors §6-09.10.
- Inspection, certification and licensing of nurseries, nursery dealers and agents §4-21.1.
- Administration and enforcement of state and federal pesticide laws §4-35.
- Licensing and inspection of anhydrous ammonia bulk facilities §4-38.
- Administration of noxious weed laws §63-10.1.
- Monitoring compliance with established standards by organic producers §4-38.
- Promotion of honey and honey products §4-12.1.
- Administration of the Agriculture in the Classroom program §4-37.
- Cooperation with federal agencies in controlling animals that cause property damage §4-01-17.1.
- Administration of the State Waterbank program §61-31.
- Promotion of the turkey industry and turkey products. §4-13.1-01.
- Administration of the cultivated ginseng law. §4-39.
- Registration of crop protection products with Canadian labels §4-40.
- Licensing of industrial hemp growers §4-41-02.
- Registration of animal feeds and licensing and regulation of animal feed products §19-13.1.
- Registration and regulation of livestock medicines §19-14.
- Registration of and regulation of the sale of pesticides §19-18.
- Registration of and enforcement of laws pertaining to fertilizers and soil conditioners §19-20.1.
- Licensing anhydrous ammonia facilities and enforcing laws related to anhydrous ammonia storage §19-20.2.
- Administration of the state meat inspection program §36-24.

Boards and Commissions

By constitutional and statutory authority, the agriculture commissioner is a member of the following boards and commissions:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| • State Industrial Commission | • Northern Crops Council | • State Intermodal Transportation Team |
| • State Water Commission | • N.D. Potato Council | • Governor’s Task Force on Blackbird Depredation |
| • State Board of Equalization | • N.D. Oilseed Council | • N.D. Disaster Emergency Board |
| • Agricultural Products Utilization Commission | • Soil Conservation Committee | • Interstate Compact on Pest Control |
| • N.D. Dairy Promotion Commission | • State Emergency Board | • Wetland Mediation Advisory Board |
| • N.D. Seed Commission | • Agricultural Conservation and Adjustment Committee | • USDA Food and Agriculture Council |
| • N.D. Pesticide Control Board | • N.D. Soybean Council | • Honey Promotion Council |
| • N.D. Barley Council | • Ag in the Classroom Council | • Waterbank Advisory Board |
| • N.D. Crop Protection Product Harmonization and Registration Board | • N.D.-Saskatchewan Boundary Advisory Committee | |
| • N.D. Edible Bean Council | | |

ADMINISTRATION

The agriculture commissioner directs the administration of the North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA). The present commissioner, Roger Johnson, was first elected in November 1996 and reelected in 2000.

Federal farm legislation

As chairman of the Rural Development and Financial Security Committee of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), Commissioner Johnson played a leading role in the formulation of federal farm policy incorporated in the 2002 Farm Bill.

The committee developed a Farm Income Safety Net Proposal to protect American farmers from catastrophic losses due to weather, disease, domestic and foreign policies, prices, and other factors beyond their control.

Key to NASDA's proposal were counter-cyclical payments that would be triggered by downturns in the market.

"Counter-cyclical payments provide producers with larger payments during times of low market prices and smaller payments during better times," Johnson said. "The concept helps ensure farm income stability and farm survivability."

Following passage of the 2002 Farm Bill, the Bush Administration chose Commissioner Johnson as one of six experts to submit comments to the Commission on the Application of Payment Limits for Agriculture.

Testifying before the Commission in June 2003, Johnson said, "we strongly believe that the focus of farm policy must be consciously and aggressively redirected toward re-establishing and maintaining a prosperous and diverse network of family owned and operated farms of small to medium size."

Johnson urged the commission to implement the following reforms

- Include the economic gains from the use of commodity certificates and forfeitures of commodities for the marketing loan gains limitation.
- Strictly enforce one payment limitation per individual through direct attribution regardless of farm structures or multiple entities.
- Commission a study to evaluate the effectiveness of the \$2.5 million adjusted gross income test for farm

Roger Johnson	Commissioner
Jeff Weispfenning	Deputy Commissioner
Joanne Beckman	Assistant to the Commissioner

program payment eligibility. Eliminate the exception for entities with 75 percent or more of income derived from farming activities.

- Commission a study to evaluate and propose payment limitation levels based on farms generating total household income at the level of the average U.S. household.
- Commission a study to evaluate methods of redirecting further payment limitation savings to increased direct payments. Direct payments should be expanded to all traditional food and fiber production to provide additional assistance to small farms.

Further payment limitations and reduced farm program eligibility would not prohibit any producer from operating as large a farm or farms as he or she desires. What tighter restrictions would prohibit is a "fleecing of America" by stopping the flow of millions of public dollars to farm operations with household incomes many times that of the average American.

Trade Issues

In September 2001, Commissioner Johnson and five Pride of Dakota member companies participated in the first U.S. Food and Agribusiness Exposition in Havana. Three months later, the Cuban government invited Commissioner Johnson for a return visit to participate in a celebration of the first anniversary of U.S. food and agricultural shipments to the Caribbean country in 40 years.

Johnson believes lifting the U.S. trade embargo against Cuba would benefit the United States, especially American farmers, as well as the Cuban people.

"Cuba is a poor country, and we should fully engage the

Cubans economically, as we do most of the rest of the world,” he said. “Our present policy has failed for more than 40 years now. It is time we admitted it and moved forward.”

Johnson said the Cubans were especially interested in a number of North Dakota commodities, including hard red spring wheat, durum, dry edible beans, field peas, potatoes and onions. He said, however, this prospective trade will be minimal, as long as Cuba cannot sell its products in the U.S., and all U.S. exports to Cuba are on a cash-only basis.

“While we are pleased so far with the sales of agricultural and food products to Cuba, much more would be likely if the embargo was lifted,” Johnson said. “The current restrictions on trade to Cuba result in substantially higher costs for transportation, financing, licensing and paperwork that do not apply to most other countries. If the embargo was lifted, we could enter into longer term food and agricultural commodity agreements to guarantee North Dakota production and stabilize prices for both our farmers and the Cubans.”

In 2002, Commissioner Johnson was elected president of the Mid-America International Agri-Trade Council (MIATCO), a marketing consortium of the state agriculture departments in the 13 midwestern states.



Commissioner Johnson meets with Sioux County producers in Selfridge during the 2002 drought disaster tour.

Drought Task Force

On July 12, 2002, Commissioner Johnson led a group of state and federal officials on a tour of drought-stricken south-central North Dakota. The group inspected crop fields where the drought caused stunted growth and even prevented some seed from germinating.

Commissioner Johnson also directed NDDA to assist the North Dakota Wildlife Federation in Operation Hayride, a program to help livestock producers in 17 drought-stricken counties transport hay to their operations. NDDA maintained databases for the Wildlife Federation to put volunteers and the commercial hay haulers in touch with the cattle producers to work out the details for hay hauling operations.

Pesticide issues

During the 2001-03 biennium, Commissioner Johnson directed the North Dakota Department of Agriculture to ensure that the state’s farmers and ranchers could obtain the pesticides needed to protect their crops and livestock. Consequently, North Dakota led the region in obtaining special registrations and exemptions for crop protection products. In several cases, these exemptions and special registrations were for similar products to ensure that no commercial entity obtained an unfair advantage and the products would be marketed competitively.



Cuban President Fidel Castro meets with North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson and Lieutenant Governor Jack Dalrymple during the 2002 U.S. Food and Agribusiness Exposition in Havana.

During the biennium, NDDA computerized the state's pesticide registration records into a single database, enabling the agency, producers, dealers and registrants easier access to this information. In addition, pesticide inspectors, using handheld computers loaded with this database, can now scan products on the shelf to determine if they are registered for use in North Dakota.

Commissioner Johnson continued to press for harmonization of regulations regarding pesticides between the U.S. and Canada and for equalization of prices for comparable products in the two countries.

Northern Plains Producer Conference

More than 100 producers from North Dakota, Manitoba, Minnesota, Saskatchewan and South Dakota participated in the second Northern Plains Producer Conference, Nov. 13-15, 2002, in Winnipeg. Hosted by Manitoba Minister of Agriculture and Food Rosann Wowchuck, the event also drew representatives of producer groups, the commissioners, secretaries and ministers of agriculture and other agricultural officials from the three states and two provinces.

"Those of us in government have frequent opportunity to confer with each other," said Commissioner Johnson. "The conference lets us hear from a wide variety of producers from across the region as they grapple with the problems we all face in agriculture."

The principal areas of concern addressed genetically modified crops, harmonization of regulations, especially those regarding pesticides, animal health and the overall direction of U.S.-Canadian farm trade policy.

Participants heard presentations by leading authorities in biotechnology, livestock health, pesticide regulation and international trade before breaking into discussion groups to develop goals and proposed courses of action.

Participants also called for joint registration of all new and presently registered pesticides and for requiring manufacturers to justify pricing discrepancies on products with the same formulation.

Johnson said that while no firm plans have been made for a subsequent conference, the participants, especially



The Northern Plains Producer Conference brought together the leading agriculture officials from three states and two provinces. From left: South Dakota Secretary of Agriculture Larry Gabriel, Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Gene Hugoson, North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson, Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization Clay Serby and Manitoba Minister of Agriculture and Food Rosann Wowchuck meet in Wowchuck's office in Winnipeg.

the producers, indicated they favored another meeting. The first NPPC was held in 1999 in Fargo.

Marketplace of Ideas

Commissioner Johnson and U.S. Senator Kent Conrad are the organizing sponsors of the annual Marketplace of Ideas. Held in January, Marketplace has been described as "a supermarket of ideas, resources and information" for rural development.

Marketplace Day is devoted to economic development. Thousands of North Dakotans come together to attend one or more of the more than 100 workshops and to visit some of the more than 200 booths, all made possible by more than 1,000 private and public groups, organizations, and volunteers.

The objectives of Marketplace are:

- To communicate to North Dakota farmers and leaders the realization that agricultural diversification holds great promise for supplementing income, thereby stabilizing our economy and our way of life.
- To expose North Dakota farmers and rural residents to a wide array of income producing ideas and mar-



More than 7,000 people filled the Alerus Center in Grand Forks for Marketplace 2003. The main exhibition space, pictured above, contained more than 100 “idea booths” at which entrepreneurs, inventors and business people explain their ideas and share their knowledge.

kets in an effort to help them see new possibilities in production, processing and merchandising.

- To encourage North Dakotans of all ages and walks of life to envision and investigate ideas for supplementing income and creating new enterprises.
- To provide a network of information, assistance providers, and people who are already engaged in alternate activities in an effort to accelerate acceptance of innovative opportunities and support those who have begun new enterprises.

- To communicate the implications of these alternatives to community development leaders, lenders, educators, policy makers and others.

All Marketplace participants receive a free copy of *The Marketplace Resource Directory*, a comprehensive compilation of economic development ideas, programs and assistance providers. This directory is also available on a compact disc, as well on the Marketplace website – www.marketplaceofideas.com.

After nearly a decade at the Bismarck Center, Commissioner Johnson and Senator Conrad moved Marketplace to Alerus Center in Grand Forks in 2002 and 2003. Attendance at the 2003 event passed the 7,000 mark.

Marketplace for Kids was developed in 1996 in recognition that youth and their teachers can play a crucial role in the long term economic wellbeing of the state.

Marketplace for Kids provides a forum for young innovators and youth leaders to showcase their projects and to develop their entrepreneurial and marketing skills.

Originally a one-day event in Jamestown only, Marketplace for Kids has grown into regional events held in Bismarck, Devils Lake, Dickinson, Fargo, Grand Forks, Jamestown, Minot and Williston. More than 17,000 young people participated in Marketplace for Kids in 2003.

EXECUTIVE SERVICES

Executive Services provides accounting, computer and network maintenance, marketing services, policy development, public information and reception services for the other program areas within the North Dakota Department of Agriculture.

Accounting

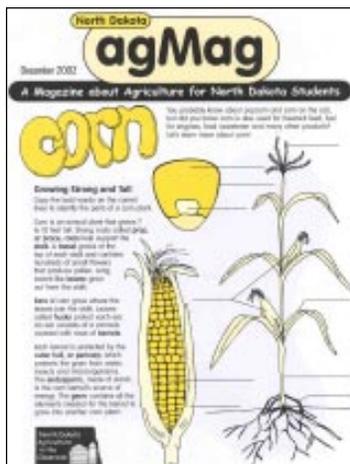
Accounting provides a variety of services for all program areas within NDDA. Accounting is responsible for compliance with state and federal laws, including tracking and properly reporting expenditures as required by federal grants. Accounting also assists in the development of the agency's budget, processes payroll, pays all bills and deposits all revenue.

Agriculture in the Classroom

As North Dakota's population moves away from farms, ranches and smaller communities and into the larger urban areas, fewer people have direct contact with the state's agricultural sector. Seeing a need to foster a greater understanding of agriculture, the 1985 Legislature established the Agriculture in the Classroom program (NDCC 4-37-01) to develop educational materials and assist in the training of teachers in an agriculture curriculum.

A 16-member council, appointed by the agriculture commissioner, oversees the program. Council members during the 2001-03 biennium included Dean Aakre, state 4-H

The Agriculture in the Classroom Council published three issues of North Dakota AgMag during the 2001-03 biennium. The magazine contains articles, quizzes and games related to North Dakota agriculture. Each issue is devoted to a single commodity or subject. Beef, corn and new technology were featured in the 2001-2003 issues.



Ken Junkert

Program Manager

Accounting

Lynette Baumiller
Jet Collins

Coordinator
Administrative Assistant

Marketing Services

Charles Fleming
Sara Wagner
Bobbi Talmadge

Coordinator
Marketing Specialist
Marketing Specialist

Policy & Communications

Patrice Lahlum
Ted Quanrud

Coordinator
Public Information

Information Technology

Roberta Tjaden

Computer & Network Specialist

Support staff

Bonnie Sundby

Administrative Secretary

youth activity coordinator; Bonny Berryman, teacher; Eric Clausen, North Dakota Geographic Alliance; Joel Dick, Roman Meal Milling Co.; Tom Decker, Department of Public Instruction; Virginia Deitz, teacher; Jeff Hagel, teacher; LeAnn Harner, Ag Coalition; Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson; Becky Koch, North Dakota State University; Margie Martin, North Dakota Wheat Commission; Renee Marzahn, North Dakota Farmers Union; Sarah Nordby, producer; Anne Osborne, North Dakota Corn Growers Association; Gail Scherweit, North Dakota Farm Bureau; Doug Vannurden, North Dakota Agriculture Education; Jill Vigesaa, Food, Land & People National Steering Committee, and Gary White, Dickinson State University.

North Dakota K-12 teachers can integrate agricultural information into their classes with "Food, Land & People" (FLP), a nationally developed and field tested program that encourages the inclusion of state-specific information. FLP features 55 lessons covering such topics as seeds, raw to processed foods, pollination, soil erosion, cattle

byproducts, fabric production and nutrition. Thirty-eight teacher training sessions were held in Jamestown, Medora, Minot and Wahpeton during the 2001-2003 biennium.

The AGcitement Learning Lab traveled to major events in Bottineau, Carson, Crosby, Dickinson, Fargo, Flaxton, Mandan, Minot and Williston. More than 6,200 young people and adults have visited AGcitement.

Several other projects are now underway to increase agriculture education into all classrooms in North Dakota. NDDA also maintains a lending library of educational materials for students, teachers and schools.

Data Coordinator

The Data Coordinator installs and maintains NDDA's computer hardware and software. Additionally, the data coordinator maintains department's computer network, updates the department website – www.agdepartment.com – and provides on-site technical assistance to department personnel.

Marketing Services

Marketing Services promotes the sale of North Dakota agricultural commodities and value-added products in international, national, regional, and local markets.

On the international front, NDDA, working in conjunction with the North Dakota Export Council and the North Dakota Department of Commerce developed a database of exporters that is available on NDDA's website. NDDA provided support for nine North Dakota companies attending the first-ever Cuba Food Exhibition in Havana, Cuba. Sales totaling nearly \$5 million resulted from that historic event. NDDA also financially assisted North Dakota companies in attending many international trade shows including providing staff support for the Korean Food Show and the U.S. Food Export Showcase in Chicago.

A member of the Mid-America International Agri-Trade Council (MIATCO), NDDA works closely with the council staff to develop markets for North Dakota companies. Eleven companies qualified for MIATCO's Branded Program, and 11 companies also participated in the MIATCO Distributive Service Program. Marketing Services also helped host a visit by 10 Russian agriculturists, as well as a delegation from Australia, and sponsored and made presentations at three international trade seminars. A video was created for the department web site promoting international trade shows.

The centerpiece of the Marketing Services' domestic activities, the Pride of Dakota (POD) program continued to grow during the biennium, reaching a membership of 400,

The products marketed by Pride of Dakota member companies can be readily identified by this colorful emblem.



a 25 percent increase over the previous biennium. New initiatives during the biennium included a message board for members to communicate easily with one another, a mentoring program to help newer members and a special Pride of Dakota School Lunch Day in which 275 North Dakota schools served North Dakota food products on a special day in March of each year. The program continues to hold Taste of Dakota promotions at local grocery stores, marketing seminars to increase the capabilities of its members, and the hosting of an internet mall-www.shopnd.com - with approximately forty companies participating. This enables companies to advertise and sell directly on the internet. Sales from this site have more than doubled each year from its inception.

Pride of Dakota has had excellent participation at the biannual Minneapolis Gift Mart, resulting in increased sales and new distributorships for North Dakota firms. Marketing Services hosts an annual Wholesale Gift Show providing gift shop owners and other retailers with a venue for to buy at wholesale from Pride of Dakota members.

The annual Pride of Dakota Day at the North Dakota State Fair continues to be a popular venue for Pride of Dakota



Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson joined students at Madison Elementary School in Fargo for the second annual Pride of Dakota School Lunch Day.

companies. About 40 companies participate in the event. The addition of the Farmer Olympics with such events as wheelbarrow racing and “husband-calling,” as well as the popular Pride of Dakota lunch, has helped swell attendance.

The Holiday Showcases, long a tradition of the Pride of Dakota Program, were expanded to include a Grand Forks event during this biennium. Combined with the other shows in Fargo, Bismarck, and Minot, attendance topped 20,000 in 2002. More than 150 companies participated in one or more of these shows.

Marketing Services was also active in livestock development. NDDA sponsored a Livestock Value Added Conference that was well attended. Task forces for beef, dairy and hog expansion were established. Marketing Services promoted several feeder calf sales and also participated with the North Dakota Stockmen’s Association in the Vaccination Information Program (VIP). Other activities included a cattlemen’s feedlot tour, publication of a feedlot directory, and the development of a dairy heifer project in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Marketing Services administers two commodity programs, the Honey Fund and the Turkey Promotion Fund.

The North Dakota Honey Promotion Act, approved by



Pride of Dakota offers member companies opportunities to learn marketing and business skills through classes and seminars.

Dakota Beekeepers Association. Any beekeeper who does not wish to participate in the Honey Promotion Act may request a refund of the assessment.

During the 2001-2003 biennium, the Honey Fund was used for special promotions and research to benefit the honey industry.

Created by the 1973 Legislature and funded by a producer checkoff, the Turkey Promotion Fund aids in the promotion, marketing and research of turkey products (NDCC §4-13.1). Processors deduct money from payments to producers and turn the funds over to NDDA for deposit in the promotion fund, which is administered with the advice of the North Dakota Turkey Federation.

During the 2001-2003 biennium, money from the fund was used to purchase radio and television promotional spots, to supply turkeys to local food banks and to sponsor 4-H activities.

Honey Fund

Revenue

Honey Promotion Fees	\$32,690.45
Miscellaneous sales	\$150.85
Interest	<u>\$185.21</u>
	\$33,026.51

Expenditures

Operating expenses	\$33,922.77
Refunds	<u>\$1,975.60</u>
	\$35,898.37

the 1979 Legislature (NDCC § 4-12.1), assesses five cents on each licensed colony of honey bees with a minimum assessment of \$1.00 per beekeeper. All proceeds are deposited in the Honey Fund which is administered by the Marketing Division with the advice of the North

Turkey Promotion Fund

Revenue

Turkey Checkoff	\$64,352.37
Interest	<u>\$485.91</u>
	\$64,838.28

Expenditures

Operating expenses	\$78,657.45
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Policy & Communications

Policy & Communications assists the agriculture commissioner by providing research and analyses of issues facing agriculture and the rural community and by serving as a liaison to agricultural organizations, councils and other government entities.

During the 2001-03 biennium, Policy & Communications researched a wide variety of subjects, including federal farm policy, trade issues, disaster assistance, livestock concentration, crop insurance, value-added agriculture and energy development.

Policy and Communications publishes all department publications, including press releases, informational pamphlets and brochures, newsletters, state laws pertaining to agriculture and the biennial report. Policy & Communications regularly disseminates information to the public through press releases and *The AGvocate*. Publications are made available both in hard copy and on the department's website, WWW.AGDEPARTMENT.COM.

In 2002, NDDA's public information specialist, Ted Quanrud, served as president of the Communication Officers of State Departments of Agriculture (COSDA), and hosted the group's annual national meeting and educational seminar in Bismarck.



Officials from Basin Electric in Bismarck explain the state's largest wind energy project during a special Alternative Energy Day held during the 2003 Legislature. The event was sponsored by the North Dakota Department of Agriculture and was organized by Policy and Communications Coordinator Patrice Lahlum.

LIVESTOCK SERVICES

Livestock Services includes duties and functions related to dairy production and processing, animal health, livestock sales, meat inspection and animal damage control. Domestic livestock in North Dakota is now estimated at 1.88 million cattle, 185,000 hogs, 135,000 sheep, 245,000 poultry, 100,000 bison, 30,000 horses, 5,000 elk and growing populations of deer, ratites and other nontraditional livestock.

Dairy/Poultry

Safeguarding the milk supply is the mission of the Dairy Section of the North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDCC 4-30). Each year the dairy inspection staff conducts thousands of on-site inspections at dairy farms, manufacturing and processing plants, and transportation and storage facilities to ensure that North Dakota-produced milk meets stringent federal and state standards.

Although North Dakota has been certified free of milk-borne diseases for many years, the Dairy Section continues to collect milk samples for analysis to ensure milk remains free of disease organisms and contaminants, such as antibiotics and pesticide residues. During the 2001-03 biennium, 914,000 pounds of raw milk were dumped because of chemical contamination. Producers voluntarily dumped even more milk when they realized it was contaminated. The loss of this milk is a serious problem, especially for North Dakota processing plants in short supply due to the continuing decline of producer numbers.

Dairy inspectors visited the state's 450 dairy farms an average of 2.5 times a year during the biennium. At each farm, the inspectors check to see that equipment is clean, that drugs are properly used and stored and that the water supply meets approved standards. Inspectors also conducted approximately 130 inspections of distribution facilities and more than 200 inspections of farm bulk trucks and samplers during the biennium.

During their visits, inspectors and producers discuss any problems found during the inspection. These visits are an important opportunity for producers to voice their concerns about the state dairy program and to learn about dairy sanitation regulations.

North Dakota has five dairy processing plants and three milk transfer stations which are inspected at least four times annually. Inspectors collect samples of raw milk and fin-

Wayne Carlson

Program Manager

Animal Health

Larry Schuler, DVM	State Veterinarian
Susan Keller, DVM	Deputy State Veterinarian
Jon Van Berkomp, DVM	Assistant State Veterinarian
Tammy Celley	Administrative Assistant
Tracy Robinson	Administrative Assistant

Dairy

John Ringsrud	Survey Officer
Gary Molstad	Inspector
Orville Paine	Inspector
Tracey Walth	Inspector
Jason Wirtz	Dairy Pollution Prevention
Becky Gietzen	Administrative Assistant

State Meat Inspection

Andrea Grondahl, DVM	Director
Jordan Woodbury	Inspection Coordinator
Allen Anderson	Inspector
Corey Schornack	Inspector
David Slack	Inspector
Shawn Steffan	Inspector

Wildlife Services

Phil Mastrangelo	Director
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ished product monthly at Grade A facilities and quarterly at Manufacturing Grade facilities. Samples are checked for bacteria, somatic cells, coliforms and drug residues by the State Laboratory and private laboratories.

The Dairy Section conducts Manufacturing Grade dairy plant inspections under contract with USDA. The section also conducts the Interstate Milk Shippers surveys of 27 listed (certified) producer groups, three plants, and three transfer/receiving stations. IMS certification allows raw milk and finished products to be shipped out of state.



NDDA Dairy Inspector Tracey Walth checks the calibration equipment at an Oliver County dairy farm during a routine inspection.

This section licenses processors, distributors, testers, and bulk haulers of milk and dairy products in North Dakota. All purchasers of milk from producers must be bonded and licensed.

The Dairy Section is involved in state and national dairy retention, development and planning efforts.

The Dairy Section also regulates the poultry industry, conducting poultry inspection and regulation in North Dakota (NDCC 4-13.2). The section monitors the movement of chicks, hatchling eggs, breeder flocks and hatcheries for compliance with the National Poultry Improvement Plan, which is designed to reduce or eliminate major poultry-related diseases.

The 1993 Legislature authorized the section to inspect small flock egg production operations, allowing producers to market eggs directly to institutions like schools and nursing homes. There are currently nine such producers in the state. Poultry licensing, bonding requirements and inspection paperwork are handled by the dairy inspection services coordinator.

Livestock

Cattle production has traditionally ranked second only to wheat farming as the most important sector in North

Dakota's economy. Swine and sheep production is also important, and the raising of buffalo and other "exotic" animals is increasingly significant. The Livestock Services Program Area helps protect our livestock producers through licensing of livestock dealers and livestock auction markets. (NDCC §36-04, 36-05.)

Dealers or auction markets are granted a license only after they post adequate bond, file a current financial statement and pass basic tests of financial responsibility. Field visits are conducted on a random basis to discover unlicensed dealers.

Livestock dealer licenses cost \$50 annually and are valid from July 1 to June 30; livestock auction market licenses cost \$200 annually and are valid from April 1 to March 31. Current lists of livestock dealers and auction markets are available on request from the section.

Wool dealer licenses are \$10 and are valid from July 1 through June 30.

A list of dealers, agents and auction markets can be found on the NDDA website – www.agdepartment.com/Programs/Dealers.html.

State Board of Animal Health

The State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) is responsible for protecting the health of all animals in the state, establishing rules and enforcing the laws and regulations pertaining to animal agriculture. The board also establishes operating policies for the state veterinarian's office.

The eight-member board, appointed by the governor, consists of representatives from the cattle, sheep, swine, dairy and bison industries and two veterinarians.

The state veterinarian diagnoses, prevents, and controls animal diseases, monitors new threats, responds to emergencies and provides information to the public. This is done through close communication with producers, producer groups, veterinarians, veterinary diagnostic laboratories, other state veterinarians, the North Dakota State University Extension Service and state and federal agencies.

Under NDCC 36-01-12, 36-14, and 36-15, the Board of

State Board of Animal Health 2001-2003

Nathan Boehm, Mandan	Dairy cattle
Jeff Dahl, Gackle	Registered purebred cattle
Jody Hauge, Leith	Swine
Francis "Buck" Maher, Menoken	Commercial beef cattle
Dr. Richard Roth, Fargo	Veterinarian
Paula Swenson, Walcott	Sheep
Dr. Kenneth Throlson, New Rockford	Bison
Dr. William Tidball, Beach	Veterinarian
Dr. Steve Yost, Dickinson	Veterinarian

Animal Health regulates and supervises national animal disease eradication programs in the state. North Dakota is now considered brucellosis-free, tuberculosis-free and pseudorabies-free, as a result of many years of work by the board and the industries involved. This disease-free status allows the exportation of animals with a minimum amount of testing and health certification. It is necessary to review laboratory reports, field reports, test charts and

traditional livestock, such as elk, deer and ratites. Currently, 276 nontraditional livestock premises are licensed. The board is responsible for ensuring that sanitation and maintenance standards are met at the 14 livestock auction markets operating within the state. The inspections are conducted in cooperation with USDA/APHIS/Veterinary Services personnel. Inspection for disease prior to sale is the function of the auction market veterinarian,



Following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the state veterinarian's office has been increasingly involved in the planning and development of security measures to protect North Dakota livestock from foreign animal diseases, especially zoonotic diseases that also affect humans. Here, State Veterinarian Larry Schuler explains to other participants in a state-wide exercise what measures would be needed if an outbreak of brucellosis was detected in the state. With Dr. Schuler are Deputy State Veterinarian Susan Keller and Assistant State Veterinarian Jon Berkorn.

who acts as an agent of the board. The inspections are required to prevent spread of disease from farm to farm and to ensure the certificates of veterinary inspection are accurate.

The board licenses rendering plants in North Dakota under NDCC 36-07.

Any person or company selling products containing modified live germs, cultures or viruses for treatment or vaccination of domestic animals must have a permit from the board. The permit requires four hours of continuing education per year and proper storage of products. It also restricts the sale of some dangerous products.

The state veterinarian cooperates with the North Dakota Department of Health on zoonotic diseases and with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department on wildlife diseases and nontraditional livestock issues. The office maintains a close relationship with the federal area-veterinarian in charge in North Dakota.

State Meat Inspection

The State Meat Inspection Program ensures that meat and meat products slaughtered, processed and/or stored in North Dakota meet state and federal requirements through product and site inspections, registration, product

certificates of veterinary inspection to maintain North Dakota's status in these programs. While the board must meet the requirements of the state in the state/federal disease eradication programs, it must also protect the livestock industry's interest in these programs.

The board ensures that all animals are treated humanely (NDCC 36-21.1). During the 2001-03 biennium, 70 reports were investigated either directly or indirectly with the cooperation of county sheriffs and practicing veterinarians. The board provided the expertise necessary when these cases were prosecuted.

The board licenses and enforces rules relative to non-

labeling and laboratory testing.

The program provides meat inspection services to several small slaughter and processing plants across the state. The staff consists of a director/veterinarian, a senior inspector/compliance officer, and four field inspectors located in Fargo, Cooperstown, Devils Lake, Dickinson and Grand Forks.

Because state programs focus on regulating small and medium-sized businesses, they are generally more accessible and more flexible than their federal counterparts that now work almost exclusively with large processors. State

programs also provide processors with practical information and technical assistance. North Dakota's program makes it easier for the state's meat producers to sell their home-grown beef, pork and or other livestock products directly to consumers in the state.

The new program certifies smaller meat processors to handle meat for sale in state, creating new opportunities for small processors that previously could sell their products only at one in-store retail counter. These processors can more easily be certified to expand their market base through wholesaling. By taking their livestock to smaller processors, producers receive more personal service and retain ownership of the meat.

The program currently regulates 100 slaughter and/or processing plants located throughout North Dakota. Four of these plants are "State Inspected" or Official State Establishments at which livestock is slaughtered and/or processed under regulated inspection. An inspector must conduct both antemortem and postmortem examinations on each animal and perform various tasks during processing activities. An inspector will perform duties at the establishment anywhere from one hour one day a week to 8 hours five days a week, depending on the amount of work the plant does.

The final products from official establishments carry the state inspection mark with the establishment number. These products may be sold retail or wholesale, but only within North Dakota. An exception is certain

non-traditional products, such as elk, that may be sold out of the state if they meet special criteria.

The other meat processing plants (90) inspected by the program are custom exempt establishments which offer slaughter and/or processing services to the public for a fee. The animal to be slaughtered or the meat to be processed belongs to the customer, not the establishment. All of the products derived from the custom operations must be returned to the owner of the animal. Custom exempt plants may also carry retail exempt products for sale to the public. The owner/operator of the plant buys "boxed meat" from an inspected plant and further processes it for retail sale. Since the additional processing is not done under regulated inspection, the products may only be sold at the retail counter within the plant. The meat inspection program inspects these plants two to four times annually for sanitation and facility requirements.

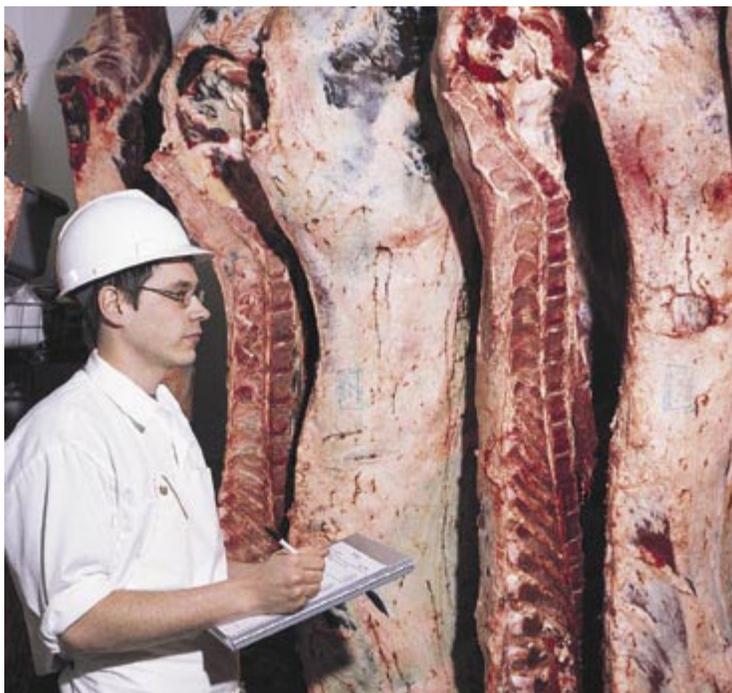
The State Meat Inspection Program is a cost sharing program with the Food Safety and Inspection Service, a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Wildlife Services

A cooperative effort of state and federal governments, the Wildlife Services program is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service through cooperative agreements with the North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, the State Health Department, and the North Dakota State University Cooperative Extension Service (NDCC§4-01-17.1).

During the 2001-2003 biennium, Wildlife Services continued to assist with the management of wildlife conflicts that impacted farmers, ranchers, homeowners, and airports. Wildlife Services directed its efforts toward resolving coyote predation on livestock, blackbird damage to sunflowers, waterfowl and other wildlife damage to grain crops, beaver damage to public and private property, wildlife problems in urban areas, and wildlife hazards to human health and safety.

Wildlife Services personnel responded to more than 2,000 occurrences of predator conflicts to livestock. Program personnel documented \$260,000 in losses of sheep, calves, and other livestock to predators, primarily coyotes. Previous scientific research has shown that in the absence of a livestock protection program, those losses could have been as much as two to three times higher. Wildlife Services helped resolve the prob-



State Meat Inspector Corey Schornack inspects sides of beef at a North Dakota meat processing facility.

lems through an integrated damage management program directed at those animals responsible for the predation.

Blackbirds continued to cause severe economic hardship to North Dakota farmers. During the 2001-2003 biennium Wildlife Services identified 12,500 acres of cattail-choked wetlands which served as blackbird roost sites. Those areas were aerially treated with a glyphosate-based aquatic herbicide in order to make the wetlands less attractive to the blackbirds. Dispersal of the birds from their roosts sites helped to minimize damage to surrounding sunflowers fields. Small grain crops were also damaged by ducks, geese, raccoons, and other wildlife. Frightening devices, live traps, and other equipment were provided to farmers in order to minimize additional damage.

Increases in beaver problems were recorded in 2001-2003, with more than 1,100 occurrences of damage investigated. Wildlife Services documented \$1.7 million in damages to trees, roadways, and crops. Wildlife Services helped solve those problems by trapping the problem animals and removing 220 beaver dams with binary explosives.

Each year, Wildlife Services responded to increased incidents of human/wildlife conflicts in urban areas. The problems included animals inside homes and damage to trees, lawns, and gardens. Wildlife typically responsible for the problems included rabbits, raccoons, skunks, and squirrels. Wildlife Services also assisted with over 250 occurrences of wildlife threats to human health and safety. Concerns over the threat of rabies transferring from wildlife to humans or domestic pets accounted for 60 percent of those occurrences. Wildlife Services also assisted with the management of a variety of wildlife hazards at civilian and military airports in North Dakota.

Wildlife Services continued its extensive educational program to assist farmers, ranchers, and homeowners with their specific wildlife conflicts. Over 2,000 personal consultations and 100 instructional sessions were conducted and 13,000 informational leaflets were disseminated. More than 1,000 pieces of equipment such as live traps and propane cannons were loaned free of charge.



Photo by Steve Allen, ND Game & Fish Dept.

Wildlife Services personnel use binary explosives to destroy beaver dams, such as this one in Grant County near Raleigh. In this case, the dam was flooding pastureland and adjacent woodland.

PLANT INDUSTRIES

Plant Industries is responsible for North Dakota Department of Agriculture functions and duties related to crop production. These responsibilities include pesticide enforcement and compliance, pesticide and fertilizer registration, plant protection and noxious weed control. The program area also includes animal feed and veterinary medicine registration, Project Safe Send, apiary regulation, organics, and the State Waterbank Program.

Pesticide

Pesticides protect the health and wellbeing of people, crops and domestic animals from insects, rodents, weeds, fungi and other pests. Yet pesticides themselves, if used improperly, can pose a danger to human beings and the environment. To regulate the distribution, storage, transportation, disposal and application of pesticides, the 1975 Legislature created the North Dakota Pesticide Control Board, chaired by the agriculture commissioner, to administer state pesticide laws.

To ensure compliance with pesticide laws and rules, NDDA inspectors conducted 1,333 random inspections of pesticide dealers and commercial and private applicators during the 2001-2003 biennium. Most inspections showed that North Dakota applicators and dealers comply with the law, but 103 cases resulted in civil penalties and 172 warnings were issued.

More than 169 tons of unusable pesticides were collected from 739 farmers, ranchers and other participants in the 37 Project Safe Send collections conducted by NDDA during the biennium. NDDA also promoted a companion program with chemical wholesalers to collect empty and properly rinsed plastic pesticide containers.

In response to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency mandates, the NDDA is continuing to develop programs to deal with protection of farm workers, ground water and endangered species.

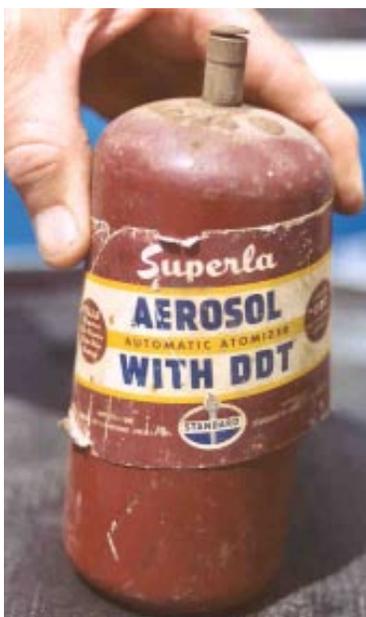
North Dakota was the first state to establish an endangered species pesticide management program. NDDA worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to digitalize the Endangered Species map. The endangered species bulletins are available on NDDA's website.

NDDA has developed the North Dakota Worker Protection Program that provides necessary information for protection of farm workers from exposure to harmful

Jeff Olson	Program Manager
Plant Protection	
Dave Nelson	State Entomologist
Philip Mason	Plant Protection Specialist
Pesticide	
Jim Gray	Registration Coordinator
Jerry Thompson	Enforcement Coordinator
Pat O'Neil	Enforcement Specialist
Dave Harsche	Inspector
Dan Sletten	Inspector
Julie Tronson	Inspector
Doug Johnston	Inspector
Joel Owen	Inspector
Brad Meckle	Inspector
Noxious Weeds	
Dean Cline	Noxious Weed Specialist
Ken Eraas	Noxious Weed Specialist
John Leppert	Noxious Weed Specialist
Feeds/Fertilizer/Anhydrous	
Garry Wagner	Coordinator
Apiary/Project Safe Send	
Judy Carlson	Apiary Director
Support Staff	
Elaine Saylor	Administrative Assistant
Cindy Wooldridge	Administrative Officer

pesticides. Pesticide personnel conduct education programs across the state to help agricultural employers comply with the worker protection standard. Routine inspections have been completed to monitor compliance with and impediments to the worker protection standard. NDDA has also developed the state's Groundwater Protection Strategy for Pesticides for the management of

Every year, tons of unusable pesticides, including those, like DDT that have been banned for many years, are brought to Project Safe Send collections for proper disposal.



those pesticides with the potential for leaching into and contaminating the ground water supply. This plan, the first in EPA Region 8, was approved by EPA in 1998.

To improve the determination of ground water susceptibility to pesticide contamination, Plant Industries is coordinating the digitalization of the state's soil maps. The North Dakota Geological Survey, the State Water Commission and the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service are also participating in the project.

During the biennium, the Pesticide Registration applied for 38 emergency exemptions; The EPA approved 34 of these requests to allow applicators to use specific pesticides on crops not specified on the labels. In addition, the Department granted four crisis exemptions, approved by EPA. NDDA also issued 30 Special Local Needs (SLN) registrations during the past biennium.

Inspectors conducted 100 retailer inspections to assess compliance with registration laws. The department documented 226 violations involving 94 pesticide products. As a result, more than 40 new pesticide registrations were granted, and numerous unregistered pesticides were removed from the shelves.

EPA supplies 85 percent of the funding for the pesticide responsibilities with the remainder coming from a legislative appropriation.

Feeds/ Fertilizer/Veterinary and Livestock Medicine Registration

This program enforces state laws relating to commercial feeds (NDCC 19-13.1), livestock medicines (NDCC 19-14), fertilizers and soil conditioners (NDCC 19-20.1), and anhydrous ammonia facilities (NDCC 19-20.2).

Approximately 5,408 commercial feeds and 3,405 pet foods are registered in the state. During the 2001-2003 biennium, 813 feeds and pet food samples were collected and tested. Between 5 and 10 percent of the samples showed discrepancies between labeling and actual content. Letters were sent to the manufacturers of these products, requesting corrections. In a few instances, stop sale orders were issued. During the same period, 284 feed manufacturers and 273 feed retailers were licensed. As of the end of the biennium, 1,303 livestock medicines were registered in the state.

A total of 1,852 fertilizer products, ranging from home and garden fertilizers to commercial agricultural fertilizers and soil conditioners were registered in the biennium. During that time, 995 fertilizer samples were collected and tested. Approximately 12 percent of the samples revealed discrepancies between manufacturer claims and actual content. Letters were sent to manufacturers of the products, and in a few cases, stop sale orders were issued. There were 500 fertilizer distributors and 376 anhydrous ammonia facilities licensed in the state.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration contracted NDDA to conduct medicated feed plant inspections, tissue residue inspections, and Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy inspections.



Handheld computers with built-in scanners enable NDDA inspectors to determine if pesticide products on the shelf have been properly registered.

REVENUE

Pesticide registration	\$3,306,900
Federal contracts	\$1,081,316
Fertilizer registration & tonnage	\$724,094
Commercial feed & pet food registration & tonnage	\$347,273
Livestock medicine registration	\$28,080
Anhydrous ammonia licenses	\$4,800
Anhydrous ammonia fines	\$4,000

Plant Protection

Safeguarding agronomic field crops, horticultural crops and grasses used for livestock production from plant pests is the responsibility of the Plant Protection Program (NDCC 4-33). The program also facilitates the export of North Dakota plants and plant products by providing export certification services.

All nursery growers and dealers must be licensed, and all nursery stock must be from inspected sources and certified as practically free from damaging pests. The program annually inspects nurseries for insects and diseases, allowing for both in-state and out-of-state sale. Certification was withheld for nursery stock infested with ash borers, bronze birch borers, cankers, blacknot and needlecast. Nursery stock at dealer locations is inspected to detect and prevent pest introductions and to enforce viability and hardiness requirements. The program works with the industry to prevent the introduction of stem rust-susceptible barberry and ensure compliance with state and federal black stem rust quarantines. Nursery inspections allow North Dakota to maintain its 'protected' status under the Federal Black Stem Rust Quarantine.

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>
Growers licensed	41	38
Dealers licensed	145	141

Plant Protection cooperates with USDA-APHIS under the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey Program. This program includes exotic pest surveys, pest surveys to generate data to enhance the exports of North Dakota agricultural products and pest surveys on other pests of mutual interest to the state and federal government. Plant Protection works closely with USDA-APHIS and the North Dakota Forest Service on gypsy moth and pine shoot beetle detection surveys. Surveys were also conducted to support the export of North Dakota products by demonstrating freedom from various pests, including the soybean cyst nematode, the Golden nematode, Columbia root-rot nematode, and wheat diseases.

NDDA conducted a Karnal bunt survey of the 2001 and 2002 wheat crops to demonstrate North Dakota's Karnal bunt status in order to allow continued exports.

Plant Protection provides certification services to exporters to satisfy plant pest regulations of other states and foreign countries. A memorandum of understanding with USDA-APHIS allows issuance of federal phytosanitary certificates. During the biennium, 2,956 federal and state phytosanitary certificates were issued for agricultural products compared to 2,948 during the previous biennium.

In addition, 1,364 in-transit origin certificates were issued for wheat and barley grain moving through Canada to destinations in the United States.

Following the detection of cereal leaf beetle in Williams and McKenzie counties in 2000, 555 origin certificates were issued for wheat and barley rail shipments to California to meet that state's quarantine requirements.



NDDA plant protection personnel set these bomb-shaped traps out every year to trap the Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica* Newman). A pest of trees and shrubs, the Japanese beetle has been occasionally found in North Dakota but has not yet become established here.

Plant Protection maintains compliance agreements with 70 elevators to certify corn shipments for compliance with California's European corn borer quarantine.

Phytosanitary field inspections were conducted on seed fields of sunflower (30.9 acres), corn (16.5 acres) and soybeans (226 acres).

Plant Protection evaluated federal permit applications (PPQ 526) to move plant pests into the state and reviewed federal permit and notification applications to introduce genetically modified plants into the state that are regulated under 7 CFR 340.

No Cooperative Rangeland Grasshopper Control Programs were conducted during the biennium.

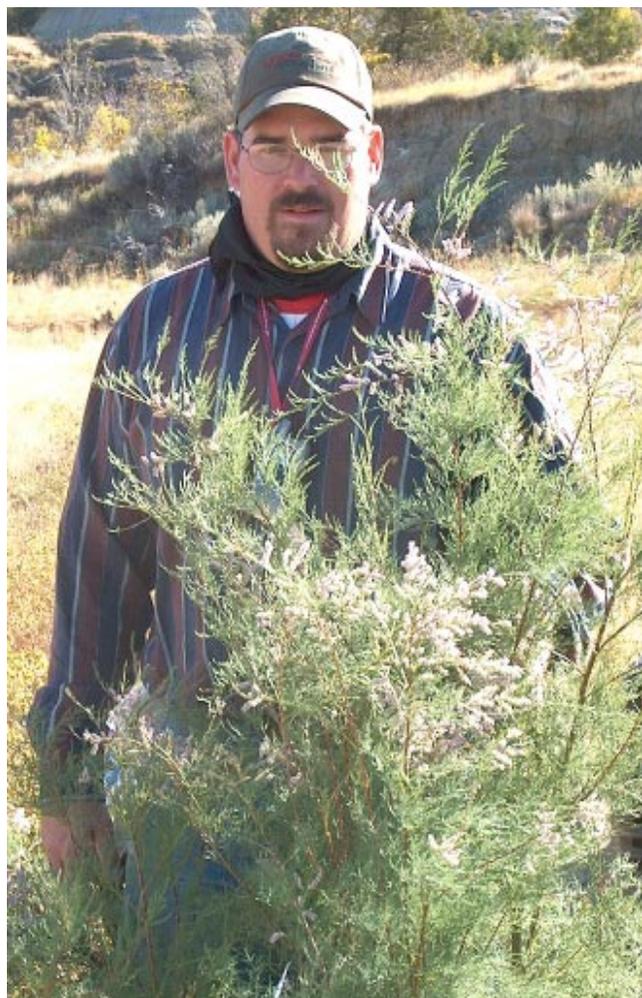
Noxious Weeds

North Dakota's Noxious Weed Law (NDCC § 63-01.1) requires individuals to eradicate or control the spread of noxious weeds on land they own or control. The Noxious Weeds Program coordinates the efforts of county weed boards and state and federal land managers in implementing integrated weed management programs.

Counties are required to establish noxious weed control boards. Six cities — Fargo, Grand Forks, Devils Lake, Dickinson, Bismarck and Mandan — have also formed weed boards. Guidelines, developed by the North Dakota Weed Control Association and NDDA, provide a framework for local weed management programs.

County weed boards offer cost-share funding to landowners. The state augments county funding through the Landowner Assistance Program (LAP) for control of the state-listed noxious weeds. During the 2001-2003 biennium, \$881,064 was distributed to 46 counties, an amount equal to 26 percent of their expenditures. The counties spent \$3,173,304 on chemical control and \$166,273 on biological control.

Canada thistle acreage has increased almost 600 percent since 1993. The weed now infests 1.7 million acres.



NDDA Weed Specialist Dean Cline was among the group of scientists who first found saltcedar in North Dakota, along the Yellowstone River.

In 1999, NDDA offered counties a pilot cost-share program to control Canada thistle. Through a special legislative appropriation in 2001, \$207,426 was distributed for a Canada thistle cost-share program. Twenty-eight counties contributed \$617,418 as their portion.

North Dakota's Noxious Weeds

- Absinth wormwood (*Artemisia absinthium*)
- Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)
- Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria genistifolia* ssp. *dalmatica*).
- Diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*)
- Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*)
- Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)
- Musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*)
- Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*, *Lythrum virgatum*, et. al.
- Russian knapweed (*Centaurea repens*)
- Saltcedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*, *Tamarix chinensis*, *Tamarix parviflora*)
- Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*)
- Yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*)

In 2002 and 2003, the weed-free forage program certified more than 48,000 bales compared to 21,500 last biennium. Cheat grass, which includes six distinct annual brome species, was added to the North Dakota list of weeds for Certified Weed Free Forage.

NDDA noxious weed specialists, together with federal, state and county officials, started a wide-scale saltcedar survey and control effort along shorelines of North Dakota's lakes and rivers. Saltcedar was found along the shores of Lake Sakakawea and the Yellowstone and Little Missouri Rivers. NDDA assisted the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in developing a saltcedar survey and eradication protocol for Lake Sakakawea. Through cooperative efforts and proper education, a state-wide effort to combat saltcedar is in its beginning stage. The 2003 Legislature appropriated \$250,000 for NDDA to assist counties in surveying and controlling saltcedar in all of North Dakota.

The WIN program was replaced by a Cooperative Weed Management Grants Program. The goal of this program is to encourage and enhance cooperative weed management efforts between county weed boards and private landowners and state and federal agencies.

GPS units were distributed to county and city weed boards that entered into an agreement with the NDDA to map weed infestations. The GPS coordinates and relative infestation data were given to the NDDA and saved in a database, maps of each participating weed board's jurisdiction were made and returned to assist the weed board in advancing their weed control efforts. As of June 2003, 48 of the 59 weed boards are participating in this program. All programs that the NDDA implements will require GPS data collection. This information will be used to monitor weed infestations, rate of spread, and areas of concern for future weed control efforts.

Apiary

North Dakota led the United States in honey production in 2002, producing 24 million pounds of honey from 304,190 colonies.

The Department of Agriculture is responsible for licensing all beekeepers, registering beeyard sites and inspecting bee colonies for diseases and parasites.

NDDA licensed 170 beekeepers in 2001 and 177 in 2002, while 8,341 apiary locations were registered in 2002. Most beekeepers are migratory, moving their operations to warmer climates in winter.

A major activity for the apiary program is the inspection of beehives for diseases, including American foulbrood

(AFB) and European foulbrood (EFB), sacbrood and chalkbrood. Inspectors also check for varroa mites, an external parasite, and for small hive beetles.

Apiary inspectors also conduct pesticide inspections to ensure compliance with pesticide labeling. New bee pests have resulted in increased pesticide usage.

State Waterbank Program

A cooperative effort of five state and federal agencies, the State Waterbank Program provides participating landowners with financial incentives to preserve wetlands and adjacent habitat.

Created by the North Dakota Legislature (NDCC 61-31), the Waterbank Program is administered by the Department of Agriculture with participation by the North Dakota



Game and Fish Department, the State Water Commission, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The program provides 5- or 10-year leases to landowners who agree not to "drain, burn or fill or otherwise destroy the wetland character" of the leased property or use the land for agricultural purposes, including cultivation, grazing or haying.

Funding comes from a combination of state and federal monies and through fundraising activities. No general fund dollars are appropriated for the program.

The 2001 Legislature authorized a transfer of up to \$200,000 from the North Dakota Game and Fish Department for Waterbank leases. NDDA used these funds to secure a matching grant of \$300,000 from the EPA.

Organics

North Dakota has approximately 175 organic producers. NDDA follows the National Organic Program rules that became effective in October, 2002. The Department has distributed approximately \$42,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to organic producers to cover 75 percent of their certification costs to a maximum of \$500 per producer.

STATE FAIR ASSOCIATION

North Dakota law (Century Code 4-02.1-26) requires that an annual report of the state fair association with a statement of financial condition be filed with the agriculture commissioner, and that the commissioner include the report in whole or in part in the biennial report of the Department of Agriculture.

The Secretary of State has advised the Department of Agriculture that because annual reports of the state fair and state fair association are published elsewhere at state expense and are readily available, reprinting these documents is unnecessary if they are referenced in the department's biennial report.

For a complete report on the North Dakota State Fair and the North Dakota State Fair Association for the 1997-99 biennium, please refer to the 2002 and 2003 annual reports of the North Dakota State Fair.

Copies of these reports may be obtained from:

The North Dakota State Fair
P.O. Box 1796
Minot, N.D. 58702
(701) 857-7620

Copies of these reports may be borrowed from:

The North Dakota State Library
604 E. Boulevard Ave.
Liberty Memorial Building
Bismarck, ND 58505-0800
(800) 472-2104
(701) 328-4622

Gerald Iverson

Manager



Wheelbarrow races were just part of the fun at the Farmer Olympics during Pride of Dakota Day, sponsored by the North Dakota Department of Agriculture during the North Dakota State Fair.

NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

For the Period July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2003

Estimated income	Original Appropriation	Adjusted appropriation	Biennium to Date Revenue/Expense	(Over)/Under Appropriation	Percent Remaining
Federal fund income	3,055,870.00	4,127,747.00	3,226,136.76	901,610.24	
Special fund income	3,994,814.00	4,006,933.00	4,069,617.37	(62,684.37)	
Total	\$7,050,684.00	8,134,680.00	7,295,754.13	838,925.87	

Expenditures by line item

Salaries & wages	3,513,495.00	3,573,153.00	3,487,319.10	85,833.90	2
Operating expenses	1,338,864.00	1,944,084.00	1,591,460.45	352,623.55	18
Equipment	30,400.00	60,400.00	60,210.90	189.10	0
Grants	161,700.00	161,700.00	111,346.73	50,353.27	31
Pride of Dakota	157,050.00	156,053.00	155,904.29	148.71	0
Ag in the Classroom	171,000.00	171,000.00	86,567.07	84,432.93	49
Waterbank	900,000.00	900,000.00	611,408.03	288,591.97	32
Board of Animal Health	716,114.00	1,089,723.00	831,796.05	257,926.95	24
Safe Send	599,369.00	599,775.00	596,178.03	3,596.97	1
Wildlife Services	779,694.00	775,707.00	775,707.00	.00	0
Ag Mediation	1,075,808.00	1,078,974.00	854,460.98	224,513.02	21
Noxious Weeds	1,346,836.00	1,344,903.00	1,286,171.70	58,731.30	4
State Meat Inspection	631,750.00	629,777.00	600,806.37	28,970.63	5
Total	\$11,422,080.00	\$12,485,249.00	\$11,049,336.70	\$1,435,912.30	12

Expenditures by source

General fund	4,371,396.00	4,350,569.00	4,350,537.61	31.39	0
Federal funds	3,055,870.00	4,127,747.00	3,158,299.20	969,447.80	23
Special funds	3,994,814.00	4,006,933.00	3,540,499.89	466,433.11	12
Total	\$11,422,080.00	\$12,485,249.00	\$11,049,336.70	\$1,435,912.30	12

Unrestricted General Fund Authority

\$4,371,396.00	\$4,350,569.00	\$4,350,537.61	\$31.39
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