

NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Biennial Report
2013 - 2015



*Promoting a healthy economy, environment and
social climate for North Dakota agriculture
and the rural community.*

DOUG GOEHRING, COMMISSIONER

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A Message from the Commissioner

My Fellow North Dakotans,

North Dakota can take pride in the achievements and contributions of the state's 30,300 farmers and ranchers, who have maintained their reputation as some of the best producers in the world. Their efforts have made our state the national leader in nine important commodities, including spring wheat, durum, sunflowers, canola, dry edible beans, flax, honey and more. North Dakota also ranks near the top in soybeans, lentils, dry edible peas, barley, sugarbeets, oats and potatoes.

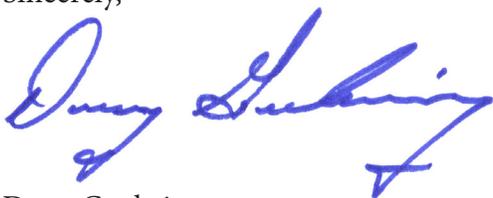
They have done this despite less than ideal growing conditions. Too much moisture in some parts of the state and dry conditions in others significantly reduced yields and compromised quality for many producers. Plant diseases, insects and other plant pests caused further losses. Yet our farmers and ranchers continued to provide safe and abundant food, feed, fiber and fuel for our state, our nation and the world.

The staff of the North Dakota Department of Agriculture is proud to have helped our producers meet these challenges.

The Pesticide and Fertilizer Division obtained federal registrations and exemptions to get producers the pesticides needed to protect crops and livestock. We helped local weed authorities control damaging pests like leafy spurge and Canada thistle. The Mediation Service provided low-cost agricultural mediation and financial counseling services. Marketing and Information found new markets, helped develop new products, and assisted new businesses. The state veterinarians helped keep our livestock free of major livestock diseases.

All the accomplishments of the state's producers during this past biennium renew our confidence both in our heritage and in our future. Agriculture will remain the foundation of our state's economy and society, and I am confident that North Dakota agriculture will be in the forefront of our state's promising future.

Sincerely,



Doug Goehring
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.

Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring

Assistant to the Commissioner
Jody Reinke

Deputy Commissioner
Tom Bodine

Human Resources
Lindsay Borlaug



Fiscal Management
Ken Junkert, Director

Administrative Services
Samantha McGrath
Jeannie Jacobs-Kopp

North Dakota Mediation Service
Mediation and Public Policy Director
Vacant

Negotiators
Jim Hoffert (non-FTE), Jim Jost (non-FTE)

Administrative Officer
Betty Schneider

Policy Development
Policy Analysts
Melanie Gaebe
Christine Schafer

Emergency Management Specialist
Kent Theurer

Marketing & Information
Dana Hager, Director

Marketing Specialists
Emily Edlund
Erin Markestad
Jamie Good
Kaitlyn Tollefsrud
Kelly Wald

Public Information Officer
Michelle Mielke

Administrative Assistants
Hazel Hoger
Bonnie Sundby

Information Technology
Computer & Network Specialist
Roberta Tjaden
Geographic Information System Specialist
Jim Hansen

Livestock Development
Shaun Quissell, Director

Dairy Inspection
Ratings/Surveillance Officer
John Ringsrud
Dairy Inspectors
Ken Quanbeck

State Meat & Poultry Inspection
Director
Dr. Andrea Grondahl
Senior Inspectors
Heather Andersen
Compliance Officer
David Slack
Information Coordinator
Nathan Kroh
Inspectors
Joshua Epperly
Sherlynn Olson
Whitney Vogel
Relief Inspector
Julie Nilges
Livestock Pollution/Age & Source Verification
Jason Wirtz

Pesticide & Fertilizer
Vacant

Environmental Scientist
Jerry Sauter

Pesticide Enforcement Coordinator
Tyler Kralicek

Pesticide Program Specialist
Jon Krei

Pesticide Outreach Specialist
Jeremiah Lien

Fertilizer/Anhydrous Specialist
Eric Delzer

Fertilizer Auditor
Patrick Hart

Inspectors
Andrew Erickson
Kevin Coufal
James Jeske
Derek Woehl
Administrative Assistant
Brandy Kiefel

Plant Industries
Carrie Larson, Director

Plant Protection Specialists
Samantha Brunner
Lane Kozel

Noxious Weed Specialist
Chelsey Penuel

Administrative Assistant
Vacant

Animal Health
Dr. Susan Keller, State Veterinarian

Deputy State Veterinarian
Dr. Beth Carlson

Assistant State Veterinarian
Dr. Sara McReynolds

Field Investigator
Nathan Boehm

Avian Influenza Coordinator
Jeanne David (non-FTE)

Administrative Assistant
Tammy Celley

Office Assistants
Kathy Hoffman
Kimberly Norton

Feed Specialist
Dave Phillips

Livestock Development Specialists
Amber Boeshans
Jessie Pfaff

Administrative Assistants
Becky Gietzen
Angela Rittmiller

Wildlife Services*
State Director
Phil Mastrangelo

Administrative Assistants
Becky Gietzen
Angela Rittmiller

* Wildlife Services, a division of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, operates in North Dakota under a cooperative agreement with the North Dakota Department of Agriculture, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, and the North Dakota State Water Commission.

ADMINISTRATION

Agriculture Commissioner

Doug Goehring

Deputy Commissioner

Tom Bodine

Assistant to the Commissioner

Jody Reinke

Human Resources

Lindsay Borlaug

The agriculture commissioner directs and supervises the staff, operations and programs of the North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA). The incumbent commissioner, Doug Goehring, took office in 2009 and was elected in 2010.

The office of commissioner of agriculture and labor was created by the North Dakota Constitutional Convention of 1889. A 1964 constitutional amendment divided the office into two entities – commissioner of agriculture and commissioner of labor – and lengthened the term of office from two years to four. The title of the office was changed to agriculture commissioner by a constitutional amendment 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	1997-2009
Doug Goehring	2009-present

Duties and Responsibilities

Originally, the commissioner's primary responsibilities were the collection and publication of agricultural and labor statistics and enforcement of regulations. The commissioner was also the commissioner of immigration.

The department's responsibilities gradually 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.

The collection and publication of statistics are now the responsibility of the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The following responsibilities are set forth in the North Dakota Century Code:

- Promoting improved marketing conditions for North Dakota products, §4-01-19.
- Regulating 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.
- Controlling and eradicating bee diseases and licensing of beekeepers, §4-12.2.
- Developing, supervising and participating in programs to protect plant life from disease and insects, §4-32-01 and §4-33.
- Administering a mediation service to resolve differences between financially distressed farmers and their creditors, §6-09.10.
- Inspecting, certifying and licensing nurseries, nursery dealers and agents, §4-21.1.
- Administering and enforcing state and federal pesticide laws, §4-35.
- Licensing and inspection of anhydrous ammonia bulk facilities, §4-38.

- Administering noxious weed laws, §63-10.1.
- Monitoring compliance with established standards by organic producers, §4-38.
- Administering the Agriculture in the Classroom program, §4-37.
- Cooperating with federal agencies in controlling animals that cause property damage, §4-01-17.1.
- Administering the State Waterbank program, §61-31.
- Promoting honey and honey products, §4-12.1.
- Promoting the turkey industry, §4-13.1-01.
- Administering the cultivated ginseng law, §4-39.
- Registering crop protection products with Canadian labels, §4-40.
- Licensing industrial hemp growers, §4-41-02.
- Registering animal feeds and licensing and regulating animal feed products, §19-13.1.
- Registering and regulating livestock medicines, §19-14.
- Registering and regulating pesticide sales, §19-18.
- Registering and enforcing laws pertaining to fertilizers and soil conditioners, §19-20.1.
- Licensing anhydrous ammonia facilities and enforcing laws related to anhydrous storage, §19-20.2.
- Administering a state meat and poultry inspection program, §36-24.
- Administering a pipeline restoration and reclamation oversight program, §4-01-31.
- Overseeing a federal environmental law impact review committee, §4-01-32.

Boards and commissions

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

- State Industrial Commission
- State Water Commission

- State Board of Equalization
- Agricultural Products Utilization Commission
- N.D. Dairy Promotion Commission
- N.D. State Seed Commission
- N.D. Pesticide Control Board
- N.D. Crop Protection Product Harmonization and Registration Board
- Northern Crops Council
- Soil Conservation Committee
- State Emergency Board
- State Intermodal Transportation Team
- Governor's Task Force on Blackbird Depredation
- N.D. Disaster Emergency Board
- Interstate Compact on Pest Control
- Wetland Mediation Advisory Board
- USDA Food and Agriculture Council
- Honey Promotion Council
- Waterbank Advisory Board
- Crop Insurance Development Board
- Ag in the Classroom Council
- State Board of Animal Health
- Food Export Association of the Midwest USA
- Natural Areas Acquisition Committee
- State Board for Agricultural Research and Education
- Center for Agricultural Policy & Trade Studies
- ND Commerce Cabinet
- Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute
- USDA-NRCS State Technical Committee
- Ag Business Rail Council
- Agriculture Hall of Fame Committee
- Midwest Shippers Association
- Seed Arbitration Board

The 2013-15 Biennium: A Timeline

2013

July 1 – Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring announces the availability of the 2013 edition of the North Dakota Local Foods Directory.

July 2 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring sees potential in Monsanto corn breeding project to develop new varieties of earlier maturing corn hybrids more suited to the climate in the northern U.S. and southern Canada.

July 10 - Commissioner Goehring reminds farmers, ranchers, pesticide dealers and applicators, government agencies and homeowners to bring their unusable pesticides to any of the 10 Project Safe Send sites during scheduled July dates.

July 18-19 - Seminars are held in Fargo and Bismarck on the preparation of necessary documents for food product export.

July 22 - Pride of Dakota Day celebrates its 25th year at the North Dakota State Fair with a Pride of Dakota vendor showcase, lunch and kuchen contest.

July 24 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring awards five grants totaling almost \$59,000 to develop and conduct Agriculture in the Classroom programs for the upcoming school year.

July 25 - Commissioner Goehring urges gardeners and produce growers to consider donating their surplus to a local food pantry or other charitable feeding organization through the Hunger Free ND Garden Project.

July 25 - Infestations of Japanese beetles in the four North Dakota cities of Bismarck, Fargo, West Fargo and Grand Forks were traced to a Minnesota-based nursery.

July 26 - A new Pride of Dakota business -

Woodward Farm of Cathay - won the annual kuchen contest during Pride of Dakota-KMOT Day at the 2013 State Fair in Minot.

July 29 - Commissioner Goehring appointed six members of the newly-formed North Dakota Grape and Wine Advisory Committee. Appointed to two-year terms were Rodney Hogen, Red Trail Vineyard, Buffalo; Ken Duppong, Haymarsh Vineyard, Glen Ullin; Mark Vining, Agassiz Shores Orchard and Vineyard, Wheatland; Rick Ennen, Apple Creek Winery, Menoken, Allan Fuller, Vintners Cellar, Bismarck, and Paul Anderson, Rutland.

July 31 - The first ever North Dakota Pollinator Summit is held. Farmers, landowners, beekeepers and other stakeholders exchanged ideas on management practices that best protect honeybees and the next steps in the development of a state plan.

July 31 - Commissioner Goehring thanks Gov. Jack Dalrymple for proclaiming Aug. 4-10 as North Dakota Farmers Market and Growers Week.

Aug. 7 - The ninth annual North Dakota Farmers Market Day at the Capitol is held at the State Capitol as part of North Dakota Farmers Market and Growers Week.

Aug. 7 - Commissioner Goehring activates the free North Dakota Harvest Hotline service to match custom harvesters and those needing help harvesting together.

Aug. 8 - A new fruit pest, the spotted-wing drosophila (SWD) is detected in North Dakota for the first time in Foster County. Commissioner Goehring alerts growers and gardeners to be on the lookout for larvae in seemingly healthy fruits.

Aug. 14 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring announces a new program to help landowners enhance their property and restore habitat damaged by overland flooding, erosion, and infestation by noxious and invasive species. The Land Enhancement and Habitat Renewal

Program is designed to help private landowners restore their land or make it more productive and provides up to 50 percent reimbursement of most costs associated with reclamation, landscaping, soil conditioning, revegetation and weed control.

Aug. 15 - A noxious weed workshop is held in Langdon to help weed control officials and land managers improve weed identification skills and control techniques.

Aug. 19 - The new edition of "Farm to Market: North Dakota's Guide to Direct Farm Marketing" is available from the North Dakota Department of Agriculture. The 36-page booklet contains information on types of direct marketing, taxes, insurance, health regulations and safety codes. The specific health requirements of different cities and health districts regarding food sales are also provided.

Aug. 23 - Extensive field and laboratory testing indicates that tuberculosis found in a beef cow in south central North Dakota has not spread to other animals. Dr. Susan Keller, North Dakota state veterinarian, said that the owners of the herd and neighbors cooperated fully in the investigation.

Aug. 27 - Almost 125 tons of unusable pesticides of waste pesticides were collected and destroyed during the 2013 Project Safe Send collections.

Sept. 5 - Commissioner Goehring noted the many opportunities and new materials available to educate students about good food and nutrition through farm to school programs. The Farm to School Program is a cooperative effort of the North Dakota Department of Agriculture, North Dakota State University Extension Service, North Dakota Department of Health and North Dakota Department of Public Instruction partnering with school districts, producers and businesses to develop and promote connections between North Dakota farms and schools.

Sept. 12 - The eighth annual Pride of Dakota Day at the State Capitol transforms the statehouse into a North Dakota products shopping mall. More than 50 Pride of Dakota companies were selling and sampling foods and condiments, decorative

items, jewelry, art and much more. A special Pride of Dakota breakfast and lunch were served by the Capitol Cafe.

Sept. 19 - The nation's top state agriculture officials urge the federal government to work with them in developing strategies for promoting the health and welfare of bees. Returning from an annual meeting of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), Commissioner Goehring said the group adopted a policy amendment recommending that the Agricultural Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA-ARS) work with state agriculture departments to implement pollinator plans.

Sept. 21-22 - The fifth annual Pride of Dakota Harvest Showcase drew more than 80 Pride of Dakota companies and thousands of visitors to the Dickinson Recreation Center. Pride of Dakota member companies sold North Dakota-made foods and condiments, decorative items, jewelry, art, apparel and much more.

Sept. 24 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring awarded six grants totaling \$435,384 to promote the development and cultivation of specialty crops in North Dakota. The grants help expand production and sales of specialty crops.

Oct. 2 - North Dakota food products are featured on school lunch menus today in more than 140 school lunchrooms around the state as part of the 12th Annual Pride of Dakota School Lunch Day.

Oct. 8 - A free seminar, "Prepare for Export Success" was held for North Dakota food product exporting companies and persons interested in the food product export market in Watertown, SD.

Oct. 8 - Livestock producers, especially in southern and southwestern North Dakota, are urged to watch their livestock for symptoms of epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) after the disease was identified in deer in that area.

Oct. 10 - Agriculture Commissioner advises livestock producers to carefully document, record and verify livestock losses from a winter storm a week earlier. Documentation may help if new legislation is passed with provisions to help producers recover from losses.

Oct. 12-13 - The Pride of Dakota Harvest Showcase returned to Williston with more than 60 Pride of Dakota member companies offering gourmet food, wine, jewelry, books, art and much more.

Oct. 14 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring announces that up to \$75,000 is available to fund research devoted health problems of honeybees.

Oct. 14 - The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) has presented one of its highest honors, the James A. Graham Award for Outstanding Service to Agriculture, to North Dakota's former state entomologist Dave Nelson.

Oct. 16 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring activates a new online service, the Wetlands Credits Database, to connect farmers and ranchers needing wetland credits with agricultural landowners who have available wetlands.

Oct. 22 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring awards 11 grants totaling more than \$39,000 to help landowners and land managers enhance property and restore habitat damaged by overland flooding, erosion, and infestation by noxious and invasive species.

Oct. 31 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring has appointed Heidi Demars, Bismarck; Daneen Dressler, Richardton; Wayne Mittleider, Tappen; and Theresa Podoll, Fullerton, to the North Dakota Organic Advisory Board. "The board provides the North Dakota Department of Agriculture with information and ideas to better identify and meet organic industry needs," Goehring said. "The members represent organic producers, processors, retailers, consumers and certifiers."

Nov. 9 - Pride of Dakota sponsors the University of North Dakota football team in their game against Northern Colorado University at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks. The promotion is held in conjunction with the Pride of Dakota Holiday Showcase, also at the Alerus Center.

Nov. 15 - Commissioner Goehring announces

that research proposals that support or promote the grape and wine industry in North Dakota are being sought. "The 2013 Legislature created the North Dakota Grape and Wine Advisory Committee to advise the North Dakota Department of Agriculture on the distribution of \$80,000 appropriated for industry research and promotion," Goehring said. "The committee has established criteria for awarding these research grants, and is now seeking qualified applicants."

Nov. 25 - North Dakota's commodity councils and agriculture associations hold their annual joint meeting in Bismarck to discuss whole-farm insurance, upcoming trade missions and livestock development.

Nov. 25 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring presented the 2013 Commissioner's Dairy Producers Award for Excellence to Norbert and Ronna Althoff of Mooreton, ND. The Althoffs milk 80 head of cattle, selling their milk to Dairy Farmers of America (DFA). They also raise corn, wheat and feed stock.

Dec. 2 - A pesticide and fertilizer forum is held in Fargo for pesticide and fertilizer users, applicators, dealers and manufacturers to learn about and discuss major issues and concerns related to agricultural chemicals.

Dec. 5 - Oilseeds, a major sector of North Dakota's agricultural economy, is the focus of the new issue of the North Dakota Ag Mag. The 8-page magazine is published by the North Dakota Agriculture in the Classroom Council and is distributed free of charge to third, fourth and fifth-grade classes participating in the Ag in the Classroom program. Each issue comes with a special teacher's guide providing background information and more ideas for additional activities to conduct in the classroom.

Dec. 5 - State and federal veterinarians investigate a case of tuberculosis in a young, non-lactating heifer from an Oliver County dairy herd. The state veterinarians work with USDA-APHIS Veterinary Services and the North Dakota Department of Health in the investigation and testing.

Dec. 10 - A new North Dakota Pollinator plan

has been developed to help farmers, ranchers, landowners and beekeepers better protect honeybees while enabling cultivation practices necessary for modern agriculture. Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring says the plan was developed in response to a growing need for a balanced public policy that reduces risk to honeybees, while minimizing the impact of that mitigation on production agriculture.

Dec. 11 - The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) and the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDGF) reopen the Coyote Catalog to connect coyote hunters and trappers with landowners who want fewer coyotes in their areas.

Dec. 26 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring is asks for public comment on proposed rules on the composition of commercial fertilizers and containment of liquid fertilizers.

Dec. 30 - Nearly 34,000 shoppers participated in the four Pride of Dakota Holiday Showcases in November and December 2013. Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring says the numbers reflect the growing popularity of the Pride of Dakota program with both shoppers and members. Attendance at the Grand Forks Showcase, held Nov. 9-10, was 6,331, compared to 6,053 in 2012. The Minot Showcase, held Nov. 16-17, drew 6,836 customers, an increase of 2,553 over the previous year. The Fargo Showcase, Nov. 22-24, attracted 9,714 people, almost 1,200 more than the previous record. Goehring says the total attendance fell only 269 short of last year's record mark.

2014

Jan. 2 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring urges North Dakota livestock producers to take precautions in the face of severe weather moving into the state.

Feb. 4 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring lauds the newly passed 2014 Farm Bill as it contains major provisions to protect farmers

and keep agriculture in the forefront of America's trade picture.

Feb. 12 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring announces that the volunteers in the Hunger Free ND Garden Project donated more than 181,000 pounds of fresh produce to food pantries, soup kitchens, and other charitable community programs in 2013.

Feb. 13 - The leading state agriculture officials from across the nation have unanimously called for continued development of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) technology for use in agricultural production. Members of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) have adopted a policy statement prepared and submitted by North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring that says "adoption of UAS technology will allow farmers to monitor their acreage, mitigate crop stressors and manage crop progress."

Feb. 14-15 - The 10th annual meeting of the Farmers Market & Growers Association (NDFMGA) & Local Foods Conference is held in Minot. The two-day conference for growers, processors, marketers and others interested in local foods attended sessions on production practices, business development, marketing through social media, as well as presentations on marketing techniques, such as food hubs and food tours.

Feb. 18 - North Dakota's state veterinarian orders that all swine coming into North Dakota be accompanied by a health certificate declaring that they have not been exposed to porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDv). Dr. Susan Keller said the certificate also must declare the animals do not originate from a premises known to be affected by PEDv.

Feb. 19 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring has announced that a new edition of "A Guide to North Dakota Noxious and Troublesome Weeds" is now available from the North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) and the North Dakota State University Extension Service.

Feb. 24 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug

Goehring encourages all providers of locally-produced foods to list their business information in the new edition of the North Dakota local foods directory.

Feb. 27 - Commissioner Goehring announces that applications for specialty crop grants are now being accepted. In the past, the maximum grant amount was \$100,000, but Goehring says the possibility of increased funding from USDA's Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) means larger grants may be possible. Projects funded by the grants must be completed within 18 months.

March 3 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring announces that the new 2014 Pride of Dakota Member Directory, listing products and services from more than 500 North Dakota companies, is now available.

March 3 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring has implemented the new North Dakota Pollinator Plan to better protect honeybees while enabling cultivation practices necessary for modern agriculture. The final version is available on the North Dakota Department of Agriculture website. The plan is voluntary and non-regulatory.

March 5 - Pesticide applicators can now use Global Information System (GIS) maps from the North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) to locate sensitive application areas, such as certified organic acreage, beeyards and vineyards.

March 5 - Gov. Jack Dalrymple proclaims March as Pride of Dakota Month and Thursday, March 20 as Pride of Dakota Day. The governor noted that the Pride of Dakota program, now in its 29th year, has more than 500 active and associate members. Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring, who oversees the program, thanked the governor for the proclamation and says there are special activities scheduled during the month.

March 10 - North Dakota State Veterinarian Dr. Susan Keller says additional requirements are now in place to prevent the spread of a deadly virus affecting pigs. "All swine entering the state, except those for immediate slaughter, must be accompanied by an interstate certificate of veterinary inspection," said Dr. Susan Keller. "All

swine imported into North Dakota for breeding or feeder purposes must be officially and individually identified." Keller says the discovery of porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDv) in North Dakota, industry concerns and the upcoming exhibition season led the State Board of Animal Health to strengthen the existing requirements and to put new rules into place.

March 11 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring says North Dakota farmers have again demonstrated their stewardship of land and water resources through proper application and storage of pesticides. "For a second consecutive year, compliance with state and federal pesticide laws and regulations is at an all-time high in North Dakota," Goehring said. Goehring said that more than 84 percent of the entities inspected by the pesticide and fertilizer division of the North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) in 2013 were in full compliance with the law.

March 12 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring has announced a second round of grants to help landowners enhance their property and restore habitat damaged by overland flooding, erosion, and infestation by noxious and invasive species. "The Land Enhancement and Habitat Renewal Program is designed to help private land owners restore their land or to make it more productive," Goehring said. "The program will provide up to 50 percent reimbursement of most costs associated with reclamation, landscaping, soil conditioning, revegetation and weed control." Goehring says that \$50,000 is available for this year's program.

March 17 - The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) and the North Dakota Agriculture in the Classroom Council seek proposals for developing and conducting educational programs and materials to help young people understand the importance of agriculture in North Dakota and in their own lives. Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring says \$55,000 will be available for the programs.

March 20 - More than 50 companies transformed the statehouse into a North Dakota products shopping mall during the annual Pride of

Dakota Day at the State Capitol today. “This is an opportunity for Capitol visitors, legislators and state employees to shop for high quality Pride of Dakota products and to meet the people who make them,” said Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. “You can see, sample and buy the finest in foods and condiments, decorative items, jewelry, art and much more.”

March 20-21 - The 2014 Pride of Dakota Annual Meeting is held in Bismarck. “This year’s meeting focuses on improving business image through presentation, marketing and customer relations,” said Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring, who will spoke at the group’s annual banquet Thursday evening. “The meeting also gives member companies an opportunity to network with one another, to develop new business, marketing and entrepreneurial skills and to learn more about the Pride of Dakota program.”

March 24 - The North Dakota Department of Agriculture and the Lewis & Clark Fort Mandan Foundation teamed up with two local supermarkets to tell the story of how North Dakota crops and livestock get to the dining table. “To celebrate National Agriculture Week in North Dakota, the Lewis & Clark Fort Mandan Foundation will offer a history tour – “The Stories in Your Supermarket” – at Krause’s SuperValu in Washburn and Dan’s Supermarket-North in Bismarck,” said Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. “These free tours will provide participants with a better understanding of how farmers and ranchers have worked and continue to work to bring us the food we enjoy.”

March 24 - Students from Bismarck, Cavalier, Fargo, Halliday, Minot and Scranton were the winners in the 2014 Pride of Dakota essay and poster contests. Rowyn Schollmeyer, 13, a student at Horizon Middle School in Bismarck, won the essay contest. Morgan Reeder, 10, a student at Clara Barton Elementary School in Fargo, won the poster contest. Caleb Akin, 14, Halliday Public School, and Billie Carik, 14, Cavalier Public School, were the second and third-place winners in the essay contest. Haile Werre, 9, Longfellow Elementary School, Minot, and Madison Wilson,

10, Scranton School, Scranton, took second and third in the poster contest. The winners received monetary awards from the North Dakota Bankers Association.

March 27 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring joins a group of Bismarck fourth-graders to launch the new, redesigned North Dakota Agriculture in the Classroom website. “This website is now an even more powerful new tool to help you learn more about agriculture, your state’s most important industry,” Goehring told the students at Will-Moore Elementary School. “It will also help you learn where your food comes from and how you can make healthy food choices.” The North Dakota Agriculture in the Classroom website can be found at www.ndaginclassroom.org.

March 29 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring urges North Dakota livestock producers to take immediate action to prevent losses from an anticipated major blizzard.

April 10 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring says farmers and ranchers who need help in applying for federal disaster funds can contact the North Dakota Mediation Service for assistance. “USDA has announced that farmers and ranchers can begin signing up for disaster assistance programs on April 15,” Goehring said. “The Livestock Indemnity Program and the Livestock Forage Disaster Program pay eligible producers for livestock deaths and grazing losses since 2011.” Goehring urged all producers who experienced losses to gather records documenting these losses before enrolling in the disaster programs.

April 15 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring has awarded North Dakota’s first research grants to support and promote the state’s grape and wine industry. “The 2013 Legislature appropriated \$80,000 for the North Dakota Department of Agriculture to fund industry research and promotion,” Goehring said. “North Dakota’s grape and wine industry has seen significant growth in recent years, and the research funded by these grants will help keep that industry growing.” Harlene Hatterman-Valenti, North

Dakota State University, received \$66,500 for a germplasm evaluation of cold hardy wine grape cultivars. Lindsay and Mike Ostlie, Carrington, received \$2,000 for trials of high tunnel fruit production.

April 16 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring says a near seven-fold increase in North Dakota's share of specialty crop development funds should encourage more farmers, ranchers, food companies, researchers and others to get involved in specialty crop production and processing. North Dakota will receive \$3.1 million dollars for specialty crop grants, a substantial increase over \$483,000 in 2013. Goehring said the increase in funding is a result of the new Farm Bill, which emphasized specialty crops.

April 17 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring has extended the deadline to May 9 for the second round of grants to help landowners enhance their property and restore habitat damaged by overland flooding, erosion, and infestation by noxious and invasive species. "The Land Enhancement and Habitat Renewal Program is designed to help private land owners restore their land or to make it more productive," Goehring said. "The program will provide up to 50 percent reimbursement of most costs associated with reclamation, landscaping, soil conditioning, revegetation and weed control." Goehring said \$50,000 is available for this year's program.

May 5 - The North Dakota Natural Areas Acquisition Advisory Committee (NAAAC) voted against a proposal by Ducks Unlimited (DU) to acquire property in Foster County for conservation purposes. Ducks Unlimited is seeking to buy the 47.2-acre tract from property from Lee Wahlund, Carrington. The organization says it will restore the wetlands and replant native grasses on the property, most of which is currently used for agriculture. The site would be managed for wetland mitigation. The commission's recommendation will be forwarded to Gov. Jack Dalrymple, who will determine if the sale can proceed.

May 5 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring applauds Burlington Northern Santa

Fe (BNSF) for their largest investment ever in North Dakota's infrastructure to aid in alleviating shipping backlogs. The company reports that more than \$160 million is budgeted to install a double track line from Minot to Glasgow, Montana. The double rail line will serve to expand capacity and ease flow of rail traffic headed to the Pacific Northwest and beyond to international destinations.

May 13 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring says a new labeling option for pesticides will make labels easier to read and follow, helping farmers and other users comply with rules and restrictions. The Environmental Protection Agency now allows pesticide manufacturers to publish labels on their websites, as well as on the product containers. Goehring says that once the system is operational, a user can visit the website referenced on the container, input some data from the container labeling, and download a legally valid version of the labeling.

May 19 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring says the Environmental Protection Agency has approved his request for a Section 18 emergency exemption for Hopguard®, enabling North Dakota beekeepers to continue using the pesticide to control varroa mites.

May 19 - A major campaign is being planned to restore North Dakota's dairy industry. Meeting in Mandan, the North Dakota Dairy Coalition, together with representatives of crop commodity groups and the dairy industry, discussed how more farmers can be attracted to dairy production. The number of dairy farms in North Dakota has fallen to fewer than 100.

May 19-25 - Governor Jack Dalrymple proclaims May 19-25 as Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week in North Dakota. Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring said the threat to North Dakota's trees cannot be overestimated. "In the past decade, EAB has spread across nearly two dozen states, killing millions of ash trees," said Goehring. "North Dakota has approximately 78 million ash trees and ash is one of the primary trees species in many of our communities as well as in rural plantings and native forest areas." The public is

urged to buy firewood from local sources and not to transport firewood from out of state.

May 27 - The 2014-15 edition of the North Dakota Local Foods Directory is now available both in print and online from the North Dakota Department of Agriculture. Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring said that more than 160 farmers markets, roadside stands, pick-your-own gardens, home delivery produce operations and growers are listed in the new directory. Each listing includes the name of the operation, address, phone number, description of products offered, times of operation and contact persons. Maps show the location of farmers markets.

May 27-30 - The North Dakota Weed Control Association conducts four sprayer schools. "Pesticide applicators can be recertified for spraying right-of-ways by participating in one of these schools," said Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. "The schools are open to commercial, government and private applicators."

June 3 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring says the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rule for the Clean Water Act is a vast overreach of federal authority and should be withdrawn and reconsidered. "As it stands, the proposed rule is little more than a thinly-disguised attempt to sidestep the federal courts on the definition of 'navigable water,'" Goehring said. "EPA says it is clarifying definitions, but in fact it is widening its jurisdiction with broad language that challenges the concept of state primacy in the protection of public water." Goehring said the rule would give EPA authority over virtually all surface water, including wetlands, dry ditches, seasonal streams and ponds, snowmelt, washes, flood plains and riparian areas.

June 11 - North Dakota State Veterinarian Dr. Susan Keller says requirements for in-state movement of swine have been discontinued. The decision was made at the June 10 meeting of the State Board of Animal Health. Interstate requirements are still in place for all swine being imported into North Dakota.

June 12 - The North Dakota Department of Agriculture - Animal Health Division, in conjunction with the North Dakota Department of Health, are advising the public to protect livestock and pets from coming in contact with or swallowing blue-green algae, also known as cyanobacteria. The advisory is to remind people these blooms are more common in North Dakota in late summer, but it only takes a few hot days to cause the overwintering organisms to become active and bloom. Blue-green algae normally can be found in many lakes and pasture watering holes in the state. Under certain conditions, the blue-green algae can grow into blooms and produce toxins.

June 16 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring has announced the formation of a regulatory review committee to help farmers and ranchers deal with the increasing load of federal regulations. "Agricultural producers are being swamped with federal regulations that impact their operations, increase their costs and reduce their profits," Goehring said. "I have asked the state's agricultural organizations and commodity groups to appoint representatives to the committee to study and review proposed regulations with the goal of addressing concerns and defending the agriculture industry." The commissioner noted that farmers and ranchers must deal with rules from a variety of federal and state agencies, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Goehring says the committee will also provide input to the North Dakota Department of Agriculture to develop comments on proposed federal and state rules before they are implemented.

June 19 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring says hospitality-related businesses are eligible for grants of up to \$1,000 for promoting the use of North Dakota specialty crops or Pride of Dakota products in their menus. Goehring said the North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) has \$3,000 for specialty crop promotion and \$3,000 for Pride of Dakota product promotion. Individual businesses may qualify for

up to \$1,000 to help fund marketing efforts and create promotional materials to raise awareness of specialty crops and/or Pride of Dakota products they use.

June 21 - Northern Lights Dairy near Mandan holds an open house and breakfast on the farm. "This is a wonderful, family-oriented activity that is both educational and fun," said Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. "Andrew and Jennifer Holle deserve a lot of credit for helping people better understand where their food comes from and how it is produced."

June 25 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring urges anhydrous ammonia dealers to check out a new webpage and to contact the North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) to learn how to comply with provisions and requirements of the Risk Management Program (RMP) affecting their businesses.

June 30 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring says farmers, ranchers, pesticide dealers and applicators, government agencies and homeowners should bring any unusable pesticides to any of the 12 Project Safe Send collections in July. The collections will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. local time at the North Dakota Department of Transportation facilities in the following cities: Forman, Edgeley, Steele, Mott, Belfield, Bowbells, Garrison, Rugby, Carrington, Michigan, Grafton and Hillsboro.

June 30 - Field days are scheduled at three North Dakota sites to collect and redistribute flea beetles that eat leafy spurge. Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring said persons interested in acquiring the flea beetles to release on their own property can collect them from established populations at the field day sites. "Leafy spurge remains one of North Dakota's worst noxious weeds," Goehring said. "Using the flea beetles for biological control, as part of an integrated pest management plan, has proved to be an effective tool in combatting leafy spurge infestations."

July 3 - North Dakota State Veterinarian Dr. Susan Keller says the state's first reported case of anthrax this year should prompt livestock producers to

take action to protect their animals from the disease, especially in areas with a past history of disease.

July 8 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring is asking gardeners across the state to plant an extra row of fruits and vegetables this year to help meet the needs of hungry North Dakotans. "One in 10 of our fellow citizens seeks food assistance from charitable feeding programs every year," Goehring said. "We are asking individuals and groups to join in the 2014 Hunger Free ND Garden Project to grow and distribute at least a million servings of fresh produce to North Dakota food pantries, shelters and charitable feeding organizations."

July 21 - North Dakota companies from around the state took part in the 26th annual Pride of Dakota Day today at the North Dakota State Fair in Minot. Fairgoers took part in a Pride of Dakota lunch, kuchen contest and snack stick contest.

July 22 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring has appointed John Dockter, Dawson, and Annie Carlson, Mercer, to two-year terms on the North Dakota Organic Advisory Board. Goehring also reappointed Christine Dockter, Medina; Jennifer Tesch, Fargo; Daneen Dressler, Richardton; Anne Ongstad, Robinson; Heidi Demars, Bismarck; Pam Thompson, Bismarck, and Sue Balcom, Mandan, to two-year terms on the advisory board.

July 23 - Fairgoers chose their favorite kuchen and snack sticks in a taste-test contest at the 26th Annual Pride of Dakota-KMOT Day at the 2014 North Dakota State Fair in Minot. Lois Meidinger of Grandma's Kuchen regained her title after a year's absence from the kuchen contest. Longtime Grand Forks meat processor L&M Meats won honors in the new snack stick contest.

July 24 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring has extended the deadline for hospitality-related businesses to apply for grants to promote the use of North Dakota specialty crops or Pride of Dakota products in their menus. Businesses may qualify for up to \$1,000 to help fund marketing efforts and create promotional

materials to raise awareness of specialty crops and/or Pride of Dakota products they use.

July 28 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring says that applications are being accepted for reimbursement of organic certification costs through the National Organic Cost Share Program for fiscal year 2014 through Oct. 31.

July 29 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring announces a third round of Land Enhancement and Habitat Renewal Program grants to help landowners enhance their property and restore habitat damaged by overland flooding, erosion, and infestation by noxious and invasive species. Goehring said about \$30,000 is available for the program. Since last year, the North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) awarded 14 grants totaling \$55,000.

July 30 - The Regulatory Review Committee met to discuss and hear presentations on the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Worker Protection Standard and Section 179 of the Internal Revenue Code. The committee was formed to help farmers and ranchers deal with the increasing load of federal regulations, and to provide NDDA with input for developing comments on proposed rules before they are implemented.

Aug. 1 - After three pigs exhibited at the state fair in Minot tested positive for an influenza A H3N2 virus strain, NDDA and the North Dakota Department of Health advised precautions to those visiting the state fair pig barns or working with pigs.

Aug. 5 - Commissioner Goehring announced that more than 150 tons of unusable pesticides - an all-time record - were collected and shipped out of state in the 2014 Project Safe Send collections. Goehring said the results demonstrate a continued need for the program that enables people to safely and affordably get rid of unusable, unneeded or unwanted pesticides.

Aug. 6 - The 10th Annual North Dakota Farmers Market Day at the Capitol is held with more than 20 vendors from across the state selling North Dakota fruits and vegetables, fresh meat and dairy

products, jams, jellies, baked goods and more.

Aug. 12 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring activates the North Dakota Harvest Hotline. The hotline matches up farmers who need custom combining and combiners looking for a job.

Aug. 13 - Central North Dakota farmers, ranchers and landowners attended a rural town hall meeting in Antler, ND to discuss regulation, remediation and mediation in the oil field.

Aug. 13 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring says North Dakota is among the states selected to participate in a new pilot program that offers more comprehensive crop insurance. The Whole-Farm Revenue Program allows farmers to insure the value of crops and livestock on their farms, rather than insuring commodity by commodity, including coverage of specialty crops, fruits and vegetables and organic crops.

Aug. 20 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring urges farmers and ranchers in western and central North Dakota to take action to protect their livestock and other property from possible flooding after forecasts call for as much as three to six inches of rain.

Aug. 21 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring approves \$54,350 in grants to develop and conduct Agriculture in the Classroom Council programs in the upcoming school year.

Aug. 27 - The state of North Dakota and one of the nation's leading ports team up to increase the shipment of North Dakota agricultural commodities to the West Coast, while bringing more supplies and industrial products into the state. Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring and Todd Coleman, CEO, Port of Vancouver USA signed a memorandum of agreement Wednesday in Fargo, uniting the state and the port in a collaborative rail service program that supports both the agricultural and energy industries.

Aug. 28 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring says more than a half-million bee colonies, another significant record, have been registered in North Dakota this year. North Dakota has led the nation in honey production for

the past decade. In 2013, the state produced more than 33 million pounds of honey, 22 percent of the national total.

Aug. 28 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring says that the selection of North Dakota State University for new USDA National Agricultural Genotyping Center is great news for North Dakota, NDSU and the North Dakota Corn Growers. "Thanks to their efforts and the leadership of Sen. John Hoeven, North Dakota will now boast a world-class research facility whose impact will be felt throughout the nation and around the world," Goehring said. "They made a strong case that North Dakota with its agricultural diversity was the best possible site for the new facility." The new research center will develop a single test to detect and monitor all known diseases of corn. Production of other crops will eventually benefit from the new technology.

Sept. 4 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring told the U.S. Surface Transportation Board (STB) that farmers, processors and commodity shippers want to know that the chronic cycle of railcar shortages and rail delays can be broken and that progress is being made to find real solutions to North Dakota rail problems. "A reliable and accessible transportation system is necessary in North Dakota and throughout the entire upper Midwest," Goehring said. "In North Dakota, 82 percent of our grain and oilseeds move via rail with a significant portion of these shipments traveling nearly 1,500 miles to the Pacific Northwest. The distance our products need to travel for export and processing requires timely shipping."

Sept. 4 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring says more combiners are needed to help bring in North Dakota's 2014 harvest. Goehring encouraged combiners to call the North Dakota Harvest Hotline to be matched up with farmers needing combining services.

Sept. 8 - A public hearing of the North Dakota Natural Areas Acquisition Advisory Committee (NAAAC) is held to consider a proposal by Ducks Unlimited (DU) to buy a 160-acre site, known as "the Reed property," in Grand Forks County. The

committee will meet at a later date by conference call to vote on whether to recommend that the acquisition request be approved or denied. The recommendation will be forwarded to Gov. Jack Dalrymple who will decide if the acquisition can proceed.

Sept. 11 - More than 50 vendors transformed North Dakota's statehouse into a shopping mall for locally-made products during the annual Pride of Dakota Day at the Capitol. The showcase for North Dakota businesses and the Pride of Dakota program gives Capitol visitors and state employees an opportunity to see the range of products made right here in our state.

Sept. 11 - The members of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) have called on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to withdraw a controversial proposal establishing federal jurisdiction over state bodies of water, including streams and wetlands. "The proposed rule – the Waters of the US (WOTUS) – does not create a clear framework that determines which waters are jurisdictional," said North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring, who submitted the action item to the NASDA. "Rather, it allows EPA and the Corps to regulate nearly any wet spot in a landscape."

Sept. 15 - The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) has recommended to Congress that the Section 179 tax deduction level in the Internal Revenue Service code remain consistent with the 2010-2013 limit for small businesses. Passed in 2002 as part of an economic stimulus package, Section 179 allows small businesses to deduct the entire cost of certain assets, such as equipment, machinery, business vehicles, computers and office furniture and equipment, in the year of purchase. From 2010 to 2013, the deduction maximum was \$500,000, limited at \$2 million.

Sept. 20-21 - More than 75 North Dakota companies sold food and condiments, decorative items, jewelry, sporting goods, apparel and much more at the sixth annual Pride of Dakota Harvest Showcase in Dickinson.

Oct. 1 - More than 34,000 students from 134 North Dakota schools dine on food products from their own state during the 13th annual Pride of Dakota School Lunch Day. Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring dined with students at Lincoln Elementary School in Lincoln and discussed with them the importance of agriculture to North Dakota in their own lives.

Oct. 2 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring awards 36 grants totaling almost \$3 million to promote the development, cultivation, production and sales of specialty crops in North Dakota. Specialty crops are defined in law as “fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops, including floriculture.”

Oct. 6 - The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) has adopted new rules regarding the content of agricultural fertilizers. NDDA developed the rules to help ensure the accuracy of fertilizer labeling. Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring said the first of the new rules defines how much a fertilizer’s chemical composition can vary from label claims. The second establishes minimal concentrations for micronutrient claims on fertilizer product labeling.

Oct. 8 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring announces that organic farmers, ranchers, processors and handlers have until Oct. 31, to apply for reimbursement of their organic certification costs for fiscal year 2014. Organic producers can receive up to \$750 of the organic certification costs they incurred between Oct. 1, 2013 and Sept. 30, 2014.

Oct. 16 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring has proposed a Pipeline Reclamation Inspection Program. With increasing energy production, this program will ensure that the long-term productivity of the land is being considered and addressed. Under Goehring’s plan, a landowner who is dissatisfied by the response of a pipeline owner/operator in dealing with reclamation of their property could contact the North Dakota Department of Agriculture for assistance.

Oct. 18-19 - The Pride of Dakota Harvest Showcase returns to the Raymond Family Community Center in Williston with nearly 50 Pride of Dakota member companies offering gourmet food, wine, jewelry, books, art and more.

Oct. 27 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring says the U.S. Department of Agriculture has recertified the North Dakota Mediation Service (NDMS) through Sept. 30, 2015. NDMS handled more than 60 cases this past year. The cases included credit issues, landowner disputes and conflicts arising from energy development.

Oct. 30 - In joint comments to be filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, leading North Dakota officials are urging the agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to withdraw the controversial, proposed rule governing U.S. surface and sub-surface groundwater called Waters of the U.S. Joining Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring at the news conference were Gov. Jack Dalrymple, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem and representatives of the State Water Commission, the North Dakota Department of Health, the North Dakota Department of Transportation and the North Dakota Department of Commerce.

Nov. 3 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring says the first railcars filled with North Dakota commodities have been transported to the West Coast under a new agreement between North Dakota and the Port of Vancouver USA. The shipment arrived in the Washington state port on Nov. 3. “AGT Food & Ingredients loaded a test shipment of 60 totes of Pride of North Dakota split green peas at North Dakota Port Services in Minot,” Goehring said. “This is the next step in delivering on our agreement with the Port of Vancouver and helping North Dakota farmers and ranchers find new ways of accessing our Pacific Northwest trade partners.”

Nov. 13 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring says \$50,000 is available to help North Dakota communities and schools plant an orchard in 2015. Communities and schools can apply for grants of \$500 to \$10,000. The grants are available on a competitive basis.

Nov. 19 - International trade, rail shipping delays and livestock development were among the topics under discussion at North Dakota's commodity councils and agriculture associations annual joint meeting. The meeting is an opportunity for agricultural and commodity groups to discuss their concerns, interests and goals.

Dec. 1 - The Pesticide and Fertilizer Forum is held in Fargo. "The forum brings together pesticide and fertilizer users, applicators, dealers, manufacturers and NDSU Extension personnel to learn about and discuss major issues and concerns related to agricultural chemicals," Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring said. "It is also an opportunity for the stakeholders to discuss how the department can better meet their needs."

Dec. 11 - The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) and the North Dakota Agricultural Association (NDAA) honored three pesticide and anhydrous ammonia dealers and applicators during NDAA's recent annual meeting in Fargo. The North Dakota Pesticide Dealer of the Year is Southwest Grain, Dickinson. Evergreen Cooperative, Tower City was named North Dakota Pesticide Applicator of the Year. Farmers Union Oil Co., Turtle Lake, managed by Chuck Riser, was named the 2014 North Dakota Anhydrous Ammonia Dealer of the Year.

Dec. 15 - More than 36,000 shoppers – a new record – participated in the four Pride of Dakota Holiday Showcases in November and December 2014. "Attendance at the Fargo and Grand Forks Showcases set new records," said Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. "Bismarck was again the largest event with more than 11,900 shoppers." Goehring said the numbers reflect the continued and growing popularity of the Pride of Dakota program with both shoppers and members. The Fargo Showcase, Nov. 21-23, attracted 10,589 people, almost 900 more than the previous record. Attendance at the Grand Forks Showcase, held Nov. 8-9, was 6,893, compared to 6,331 in 2013. The Minot Showcase drew 6,592 customers.

Dec. 15 - The Coyote Catalog, a statewide effort connecting coyote hunters and trappers with

landowners who want fewer coyotes in their areas, has been reopened by the North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) and the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDGF). "I encourage landowners, especially farmers and ranchers who have problems with coyote depredation, to sign up for the Coyote Catalog," said Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. "Hunting and trapping are valuable tools in managing these predators."

2015

Jan. 6 - Weed control officials from across the state gathered for the North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner's Weed Forum in Mandan. The forum is held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the North Dakota Weed Control Association (NDWCA) and includes presentations on risk management, the North Dakota Pollinator Plan, pesticides and environmental concerns, biocontrol, state-funded weed control programs, open meetings and records laws and using social media.

Feb. 2 - Commissioner Goehring announces that the North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) is accepting applications for 2015 Specialty Crop Grants. "Projects that promote the production, processing and use of specialty crops in the North Dakota are eligible for these grants," said Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. "Organizations, institutions and individuals are encouraged to submit proposals on their own or in partnerships."

Feb. 6 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring announced at today's North Dakota Farmers Market and Growers Association (NDFMGA) Local Foods Conference that the volunteers in the Hunger Free ND Garden Project have donated more than one million pounds of fresh produce to food pantries, soup kitchens, and other charitable community programs since the program started in 2010.

Feb. 6-7 - Weed control, product labeling, hops production and beekeeping are among the topics

covered at the 11th annual meeting of the Farmers Market & Growers Association (NDFMGA) & Local Foods Conference held in Mandan. The two-day conference, sponsored by the North Dakota Department of Agriculture and the NDFMGA, attracts growers, processors, marketers and others interested in local foods from across the state.

Feb. 9 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring awarded grants totaling \$30,703.63 for eight projects to develop orchards and plant trees in local communities. Goehring said grant money can be used for plants, trees, planting supplies, soil amendments, irrigation and fencing supplies, but not for permanent structures, capital expenditures or to buy land. The grants are funded by a U.S. Department of Agriculture specialty crop grant through the NDDA's Local Foods Initiative.

Feb. 10 - The nation's leading state agriculture officials gathered at the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) Winter Policy Conference this past week to discuss agriculture issues including pollinators, mediation, rail transportation, trade with Cuba, food safety, antimicrobial resistance and agriculture literacy. North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring, introduced a policy amendment to support safeguarding the use of antimicrobials in animal agriculture by encouraging judicious use principles while providing outreach and education to practitioners, users, patients and the public. NASDA members unanimously passed Goehring's policy amendment. Pollinators and bee health were also identified by NASDA members as a top tier priority. They passed an action item directing promotion and development of state managed pollinator plans to ensure a combined effort to mitigate risk and minimize impact to agricultural operations.

Feb. 10-25 - The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) and the North Dakota Agriculture Association (NDAA) host a series of anhydrous ammonia safety trainings across the state. Safety trainings are a requirement for any person handling, transferring, transporting or otherwise working with anhydrous ammonia at

storage facilities.

Feb. 23 - Grape growers and winemakers from the region gathered in Bismarck in early February to discuss current topics and issues affecting the grape and wine industry. They also held an annual wine competition. Dakota Sun Gardens, Carrington received four people's choice awards; Tongue River Winery, Miles City, MT received three; and Bear Creek Winery, Fargo and Wolf Creek Winery, Coleharbor each received one.

Feb. 25 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring says a report issued by the U.S. Office of Inspector General (OIG) implicating North Dakota in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 8's failure to ensure that Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act inspections are fully implemented in the state is misleading and disappointing. The report came as a surprise to the North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) since the state has an 86% pesticide compliance rate, the highest in the nation. North Dakota state inspectors use education compliance to ensure that state and federal laws meeting EPA requirements for compliance are met. North Dakota state inspectors conducted 918 pesticide inspections in 2014.

Mar. 4-10 - Four specialty crop listening sessions are held in Dickinson, Minot, Wahpeton and Grafton. "These sessions are opportunities for specialty crop producers to discuss the challenges they face in growing and marketing their crops, and to discuss the successes they have had," said Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. The sessions will be held jointly with grant writing workshops lead by North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension. These workshops are designed to help potential applicants understand, develop, and submit their federal grant applications for the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program.

Mar. 6 - With the confirmation of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5 in a commercial turkey flock in Minnesota yesterday, the North Dakota Department of Agriculture's Animal Health Division advises poultry owners to immediately report unusual death loss to their

local veterinarian, restrict access to property, keep birds away from other birds and practice enhanced biosecurity.

Mar. 19 - The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) hosts a public hearing to review the state noxious weeds list in their 6th floor conference room at the State Capitol. A public review of the noxious weeds list is required by the North Dakota Century Code to be held every five years. The last review of noxious weeds listed in the state was done in January 2010. "With input from the citizens of North Dakota we can better identify noxious weeds of concern," said Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring.

Mar. 23 - The annual Pride of Dakota Day at the State Capitol transformed the statehouse into a North Dakota products shopping mall. "Nearly 30 Pride of Dakota companies will be selling and sampling gourmet foods, art, books, jewelry, clothing, home decor and much more," said Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. "It's an opportunity for Capitol visitors and state employees alike to shop for high quality Pride of Dakota products and to meet the people who make them."

Mar. 23 - As the spring season approaches, Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring is reminding anhydrous ammonia users to file the proper documentation before transferring the fertilizer from a tanker to a nurse tank in the field. "Transferring anhydrous ammonia from a tanker to a nurse tank is allowed out in the field," Goehring said. "Users just need to provide written notification to the North Dakota Department of Agriculture, their county commissioners and county emergency manager." Goehring said the notification is required to make information readily available to emergency responders in case of an accident and to ensure that persons transporting and transferring the anhydrous ammonia are properly trained.

Mar. 23 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring says North Dakota's share of specialty crop development funds should encourage more farmers, ranchers, food companies, researchers and others to get involved in specialty crop

production and processing. "I have been informed by USDA that North Dakota will receive \$2.3 million dollars for specialty crop grants," Goehring said. Goehring said the North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) is now accepting applications for 2015 Specialty Crop Grants.

Mar. 25 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring has issued a Special Local Needs (SLN) registration to FMC Corporation enabling North Dakota dry bean producers to manage kochia and ALS-resistant kochia with Spartan® Elite herbicide. The corporation has requested cancellation of the existing SLN registration for use of Broadaxe® herbicide on dry beans and has requested a new SLN registration for Spartan Elite. Users must comply with all restrictions, precautions and the directions found in the SLN labeling, and a copy of the labeling must be in the user's possession at the time of application. This SLN registration is effective immediately and expires Dec. 31, 2020.

Apr. 1 - Today is North Dakota Agriculture Day at the State Capitol. "As thoughts turn to spring it's a great time to celebrate North Dakota's number one industry," said Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. "With our producers ready and anxious to get out into their fields and pastures, we want them to know that North Dakota appreciates all they do." Goehring said 23 agriculture-related organizations, associations and agencies participated in today's event.

Apr. 8 - A specialty crop listening session is held in Casselton. "This session is an opportunity for specialty crop producers to discuss the challenges and successes they have had in growing and marketing their crops," said Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. "The North Dakota Department of Agriculture is very interested in what local producers have to say. Their valuable input will help direct the development of future local foods programs."

Apr. 8 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring is encouraging farmers and anhydrous ammonia dealers to get their anhydrous nurse tanks ready for planting season. Goehring said staff from the North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) will visit businesses and

farms on request to help tank owners get their tanks into compliance.

Apr. 9 - The State Board of Animal Health was notified that samples from a commercial turkey flock in Dickey County tested by the NDSU Veterinary Diagnostic Lab are presumed positive for H5 avian influenza after the flock owner reported increased mortality. Samples have been sent to the National Veterinary Services Laboratories located in Ames, Iowa for confirmation. If confirmed, this will be the first case of H5 avian influenza in North Dakota.

Apr. 14 - The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic H5N2 avian influenza (HPAI) in a commercial turkey flock in Dickey County, North Dakota. A presumptive positive case was first identified by the North Dakota State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and confirmed by the APHIS National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa. The State Board of Animal Health and the North Dakota Department of Agriculture are working closely with USDA-APHIS and local officials in the response. The premises has been quarantined and the flock will be depopulated to prevent the spread of the disease. Domestic birds in a 6-mile control zone around the affected farm are being monitored and tested; and movement is being restricted to help prevent the spread of HPAI. Birds from the flock will not enter the food system.

Apr. 15 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring announced plans for a pipeline restoration and reclamation oversight pilot program during a news conference today after the new law was signed by Governor Jack Dalrymple on April 13. The program will provide assistance and support to landowners and tenants on pipeline reclamation and restoration issues, as well as educational outreach.

Apr. 22 - A specialty crop state listening session is held in Bismarck. The state session summarizes regional sessions held in Dickinson, Minot, Grafton and Casselton and provides more in-

depth discussion on leading topics from those sessions. The listening sessions are funded through a specialty crop grant from the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Apr. 22 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring encourages homeowners to check recommended plant hardiness zones and seek expert advice in some cases before buying and planting nursery stock for their property. "Many varieties of trees and shrubs adapt well to North Dakota's climate and soils, but before you plant, you may want to talk with a trusted nursery dealer, horticulturist or local extension agent," Goehring said. "They will help you select nursery stock that you will enjoy for years to come."

Apr. 24 - The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic H5 avian influenza (HPAI) in a commercial turkey flock in LaMoure County, North Dakota. The premises contained approximately 69,000 turkeys and also about 2,000 chickens. A presumptive positive case was first identified by the University of Minnesota's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and confirmed by the APHIS National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa. This is the second case confirmed in North Dakota. A response team has been working with a Dickey County poultry farm since the first case was confirmed earlier this month.

Apr. 28 - To protect North Dakota's poultry industry from potential exposure to H5 avian influenza virus, the State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) halted bird movement to shows, exhibitions and public sales within the state in which birds from different locations are intermingled at an event. This does not apply to approved private sales that meet North Dakota importation requirements. This board action prohibits the specified poultry/bird movements until further notice.

Apr. 28 - The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) conducts a Weed Seed Free Forage Inspector Training and Refresher Course

at the Northern Great Plains Research Center in Mandan. Commissioner Goehring said the course, including a final examination, is required for anyone wanting certification as a forage inspector, as well as all current inspectors. NDDA now has 18 forage inspectors under contract.

May 5 - The oilseed plant in Enderlin, ND will soon be able to crush soybeans in addition to canola and sunflower seeds. Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) Company, the owner of the facility, is increasing processing flexibility in the Enderlin plant as soybean acreage grows within North Dakota. In recent years North Dakota has become a leading producer of soybeans. In 2014, 5.9 million acres were planted in the state. Two products are derived from crushed soybeans: soybean oil and protein-rich meal for livestock.

May 6 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring issued a Special Local Needs (SLN) registration to Nichino America enabling North Dakota potato producers to use chemigation to manage black scurf with Moncut® Fungicide. Gowan Corporation recently held a SLN for the product Moncut® 70-DF, which allowed for this use, but the product was sold to Nichino and the old SLN registration had to be cancelled and a new one issued. Users must comply with all restrictions, precautions and the directions found in the SLN labeling, and a copy of the labeling must be in the user's possession at the time of application. This SLN registration is effective immediately and expires Dec. 31, 2020.

May 8 - In light of a strong spring storm expected this weekend in Southwest and South Central North Dakota, Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring encourages ranchers to take action to protect their newborn and young livestock. A special weather statement has been issued by the National Weather Service in Bismarck for Saturday through Sunday. The main hazard will be the possible six or more inches of heavy wet snow combined with falling temperatures, which may leave calves and lambs vulnerable to hypothermia.

May 12 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring urges North Dakota residents purchasing nursery stock to check for Japanese

beetle infestation. "If you have purchased shrubs, trees or flowers this year, please inspect the plants carefully and remove and kill any Japanese beetles you find," Goehring said. "We do not believe large numbers of this pest are in North Dakota yet, and we don't want it to become a resident."

May 14 - Governor Jack Dalrymple proclaimed May 17-23, 2015 as Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week in North Dakota. "EAB is now found in 25 states, including our neighbor, Minnesota," said Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. "Given the traffic between our two states, it is more important than ever for North Dakotans to take action to prevent it from coming here." North Dakota has approximately 78 million ash trees and ash is one of the primary tree species in many communities as well as in rural plantings and native forest areas.

June 1 - The State Board of Animal Health lifted quarantines that have been in place in Dickey and LaMoure counties since the confirmation of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5 in poultry flocks there in April. The quarantines restricted the movement of poultry and poultry products in the control zones, 6-mile radiuses around the infected premises. Teams comprised of staff from the North Dakota Department of Agriculture's Animal Health Division, the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) Veterinary Services and local extension offices visited multiple locations in the quarantined areas and tested samples from birds at 20 premises. After two negative rounds of avian influenza testing, the quarantines have been lifted and movement of poultry and poultry products is no longer restricted in the control zones. The two originally infected premises remain quarantined until the cleanup process is complete. Statewide bird movement to shows, exhibitions and public sales is still halted until further notice.

June 17 - Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring said that applications are now being accepted for reimbursement of organic certification costs through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Organic Certification Cost Share Program for

fiscal year 2015. “Organic farmers, ranchers, processors and handlers can receive up to \$750 of the organic certification costs paid between Oct. 1, 2014 and Sept. 30, 2015,” Goehring said.

June 22 - North Dakota’s state veterinarian says the state’s first reported case of anthrax in a Grand Forks County beef cow this year should prompt livestock producers to take action to protect their animals from the disease, especially in areas with a past history of the disease. Producers should consult with their veterinarians to make sure the vaccination schedule for their animals is up to date.

June 24 - Field days have been scheduled at four North Dakota sites to collect and redistribute flea beetles that eat leafy spurge. The first field days were held today in Stutsman County and Billings County. Other field days are scheduled for July 1 in Billings County and July 6 in Grant County. Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring said persons interested in acquiring the flea beetles to release on their own property can collect them from established populations at the field day sites.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Director

Kenneth Junkert

Financial Management

Lynette Baumiller
Jeannie Jacobs-Kopp
Samantha McGrath

Policy and Research

Melanie Gaebe
Christine Schafer

Mediation

Jim Hoffert
Jim Jost
Betty Schneider

Emergency Management

Kent Theurer

Administrative Services includes fiscal management and the North Dakota Mediation Service.

Fiscal Management

Fiscal management handles all accounting functions and grant management for the department. This includes payment of expenditures, receipting of revenue, monitoring almost 30 federal grants, preparing the biennial budget and processing payroll for 77 full-time employees and 30 part-time, hourly employees.

North Dakota Mediation Service

Program Overview

The North Dakota Mediation Service (NDMS) was established to help resolve disputes and to help financially distressed farmer and ranchers.

Mediation is a voluntary, confidential process in which a neutral mediator guides the parties involved in a dispute through a thorough examination and discussion of issues. Mediation allows all parties involved in a dispute to speak openly in a confidential manner.

In 2011, the Legislature expanded the program's responsibilities to include mediation of property disputes related to energy development and landowner disputes with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department related to property damage caused by deer depredation.

Requests for Assistance

State law (NDCC Chapter 6-09.10) describes who can request mediation services:

6-09.10-04: A farmer, creditor, person dealing with a farmer, person eligible for mediation with an agency or the United States department of agriculture, a landowner, or an owner, or lessee, or lessor of mineral interests may request assistance from the North Dakota mediation service.

For the 2013-2015 Biennium, NDMS received 85 mediation requests. Agreement between the parties was reached in 60 percent of the cases.

Credit Review Board

The six-member North Dakota Credit Review Board establishes policy for the NDMS. The board members during the 2013-15 Biennium were:

1. David Rustebakke, Chairman (Grand Forks) – Governor’s Appointee
2. Gerald Horner (Kidder) – Governor’s Appointee
3. Paul Burtman (Williams) – Attorney General Appointee
4. Barry Hanson (Pembina) – Attorney General Appointee
5. Michael Martin (Dickey) – Agriculture Commissioner’s Appointee
6. Gerald Melvin (Cass) - Agriculture Commissioner’s Appointee

Program Certification

The United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency (FSA) requires annual certification of state mediation programs (7 CFR §785.3). NDMS was certified during the 2013-2015 Biennium.

MARKETING & INFORMATION

Director

Dana Hager

Marketing Specialists

Jamie Good

Erin Markestad

Kaitlyn Tollefsrud

Kelly Wald

Public Information

Michelle Mielke

Grant Administrator

Emily Edlund

Information Technology

Jim Hansen

Roberta Tjaden

Administrative / Reception

Hazel Hoger

Bonnie Sundby

The Marketing and Information Division promotes the sale of North Dakota agricultural commodities and value-added products in international, national, regional and local markets. The division prepares and publishes public information and marketing materials for the department.

Pride of Dakota

With more than 500 member companies, the Pride of Dakota (POD) program is the centerpiece of the division's domestic activities. The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) mentors POD members through marketing seminars, an annual meeting, social media opportunities and online marketing newsletters. POD members can qualify for financial incentives to attend out-of-state trade shows, and can use the program's point-of-purchase materials to promote their products. The program also offers assistance to retailers working to promote the POD brand.

The Pride of Dakota website – www.prideofdakota.com – lists all Pride of Dakota members with descriptions of their businesses and products, pictures and contact information.

The most visible of Pride of Dakota activities are the Holiday Showcases, held annually in Bismarck, Fargo, Grand Forks and Minot. Attendance at the 2014 showcases was a record-breaking 36,000 people. Because of the popularity of the holiday showcases, two other showcase events have been added to the program. Harvest Showcases are held in Dickinson and Williston. Other events include the annual Pride of Dakota Day at the North Dakota State Fair, Pride of Dakota Days at the Capitol and the Pride of Dakota School Lunch Day in October during which schools are encouraged to include North Dakota food products on their school lunch menus and educate students about where their food comes from.

Export

The division works closely with Food Export Association of the Midwest USA (Food Export – Midwest), a consortium of 12 state agriculture departments, to develop international markets for North Dakota companies that produce food or agricultural products. NDDA promoted such programs as export promotion, customized export assistance, and a cost-sharing funding program. North Dakota companies continue to participate in these programs, growing their export markets through the services offered by NDDA and Food Export – Midwest. NDDA also works with the North Dakota

Trade Office to expand trade through advocacy, education and trade missions.

Local Foods

The division continues to help expand the presence of farmers markets and food availability around the state and to help educate growers and vendors who use these markets to sell produce. More than 55 farmers markets now operate in the state, reflecting an increasing demand and awareness for locally produced foods. Education programs to promote small farm fruit and vegetable production are successful.

The department leads many initiatives to assist with the state's local foods movement. A few of the highlights include:

- Farmers Market Day at the State Capitol continues to grow and draws a diverse crowd of vendors and shoppers.
- The Mobile Food Processing Unit, a commercial-grade kitchen on wheels, is used for product testing, processing product for Pride of Dakota companies, cooking demonstrations, serving "local foods" meals at special events, and taste testing activities.
- Annual publications include the farmers market and growers directory and a farm to market: North Dakota's guide to direct farm marketing.
- The Hunger Free ND Garden Project encourages fresh produce donations to charitable community organizations. An important partner in this venture is the Great Plains Food Bank. The project has encouraged and recorded over 1M pounds of produce donations since its start in 2010.
- Community orchard grants are awarded to communities and schools throughout the region to encourage fruit production.
- An annual local foods conference brings educational sessions to local growers across the state. NDDA and NDFMGA are joint sponsors.

Organics

North Dakota has more than 200,000 acres of certified organic acres. An Organic Advisory Board advises the commissioner on organic issues. A web site - www.ndorganics.nd.gov - provides a direc-

tory of producers as well as helpful information both for the organic industry and the general public. NDDA promotes the industry at trade shows throughout the state.

Public Information

Public information writes, edits and publishes most department publications, including press releases, informational pamphlets and brochures, newsletters, state laws pertaining to agriculture and the biennial report. Publications are made available in hard copy and on NDDA's website, www.nd.gov/ndda.

Public Information also responds to questions and requests for information from the public on agriculture and the department.

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. The 1985 Legislature established the Agriculture in the Classroom program (N.D.C.C. 4-37-01) to develop educational materials and assist in the training of teachers in an agriculture curriculum. A six-member board, appointed by the agriculture commissioner, advises the department on the program.

An agriculture in the classroom website - www.nd.gov/aitc - was launched in March of 2014 showcasing learning tools for students as well as special sections for teachers and administrators.

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

The council published six editions of North Dakota AgMag during the biennium. Each edition was devoted to a different subject - North Dakota's Oilseeds, We're #1, Agricultural Marketing, Dairy, Soil and Water, and North Dakota's Agricultural History.

The ND FFA program provided of mini-grants to school programs across the state. The money was used to enhance agriculture education throughout the state.

Turkey Promotion

Funded by a producer checkoff, the Turkey Promotion Fund (N.D.C.C. §4-13.1) aids in the promotion, marketing and research of turkey products. Processors deduct money from payments to producers and turn the funds over to NDDA for deposit in the promotion fund. Marketing Services administers the Turkey Promotion Fund with the advice of the North Dakota Turkey Federation.

During the 2013-15 biennium, the fund was used to purchase broadcast advertising, supply turkeys to charitable organizations and sponsor NDSU’s BBQ Boot Camp, “Know Agriculture. Know Food.” BBQ Boot Camp is a collaborative effort of animal scientists in NDSU’s Animal Sciences Department and agents from the NDSU Extension Service. BBQ Boot Camps are held in various locations during the summer months.

Turkey Promotion Fund	
Revenue	
Turkey checkoff	\$29,154.96
Interest	\$4.71
2011-13 carry-over funds	<u>\$2,178.03</u>
Total revenue	\$31,337.70
Expenditures	
Operating expenses	\$26,478.25
Total expenditures	<u>\$26,478.25</u>
Balance (6-30-15)	\$4,859.45

Grape, Fruit and Wine Grants

The Grape, Wine and Fruit Promotion Fund is governed by the Grape and Wine Advisory Committee. The Committee consists of two individuals who are grape producers; one individual who is the producer of a fruit, other than grapes, used

in vinification; two individuals who own wineries located in the state; and one representative of the ND Grape and Wine Association. The North Dakota Department of Agriculture administers the fund.

The mission of the Grape, Wine and Fruit Promotion fund is to provide research and promotion in support of the grape and wine industry in North Dakota.

Funding for the Grape, Wine and Fruit Promotion Fund is included in the Agriculture Commissioner’s budget. It includes approximately \$80,000 to support grape and wine research projects and marketing in North Dakota.

Specialty Crop Block Grants

The USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant program is administered by the marketing and information division. Specialty crops are defined as “fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture).”

To be eligible for a grant, the project(s) must solely enhance the competitiveness of U.S. or U.S. territory grown specialty crops in either domestic or foreign markets. Projects must also benefit more than one commercial product (e.g., ABC Company brand), organization, or individual.

Examples of “solely enhancing the competitiveness of specialty crops” can include: education, research, food safety, pest and plant health, marketing and promotion, and production.

A North Dakota priority survey identified these top issues during the 2013-15 biennium: pest and disease control; development of organic and sustainable production practices; developing local and regional food systems; and investing in specialty crop research, including research to focus on conservation and environmental outcomes.

Information Technology

Information Technology (IT) provides the department’s desktop support, network administration, web applications, database management, telecommunications, software training, wireless communications, software management, computers printers and other peripherals. IT is also responsible for

the department's Geographic Information System (GIS), including the training of field staff in the use of global positioning system (GPS) hardware and software. Maps produced by GIS specialists enable pesticide applicators to avoid accidentally exposing sensitive sites, such as apiaries, vineyards, fruit orchards and organic fields, to potentially damaging pesticides.

ANIMAL HEALTH

State Veterinarian/Director

Susan Keller, DVM

Deputy State Veterinarian

Beth Carlson, DVM

Assistant State Veterinarian

Sara McReynolds, DVM

Field Investigator

Nathan Boehm

Avian Influenza Coordinator

Jeanne David

Administrative Assistant

Tammy Celley

Office Assistant

Kathy Hoffman

Kimberly Norton

The state veterinarian is responsible for carrying out policies and orders of the State Board of Animal Health (BOAH).

The state veterinarian is also the director of the Animal Health Division in the North Dakota Department of Agriculture and is responsible for the diagnosis, prevention and control of animal diseases, monitoring new threats, emergency response planning and implementation and providing public information regarding new and emerging animal health concerns. The state veterinarian is also the state tuberculosis and brucellosis epidemiologist.

The deputy state veterinarian oversees the nontraditional livestock, farmed elk, chronic wasting disease surveillance and scrapie eradication programs. The deputy serves as the state's transmissible spongiform encephalopathy epidemiologist and is a liaison to the Department of Health regarding zoonotic disease issues such as rabies.

The assistant state veterinarian oversees the division's emergency response planning, the North Dakota Voluntary Johne's disease control and the National Poultry Improvement programs, and coordinates the Reserve Veterinary Corps (RVC). The 21-member RVC assists the state veterinarian in preparing for and carrying out emergency responses. The assistant is the liaison to the Department of Emergency Services.

The livestock field investigator investigates suspected violations of animal health importation regulations. The investigator assists in inspections of auction markets, non-traditional livestock and farmed elk facilities, modified live vaccine facilities and assists local law enforcement with the investigations of alleged inhumane treatment of animal(s) cases.

The support staff reviews approximately 7,800 incoming and 12,000 outgoing certificates of veterinary inspection per year. They also review incoming disease test charts, monitoring those for tuberculosis and brucellosis to determine eligibility for accredited free and certified free herd and flock statuses, issuing certificates when applicable. North Dakota has 17 accredited tuberculosis-free herds, four certified brucellosis-free herds, and eight *Brucella ovis* free flocks.

North Dakota is considered brucellosis-free, tuberculosis-free and pseudorabies free. This disease-free status allows interstate movement and export of animals to other states and countries,

State Board of Animal Health

The State Board of Animal Health establishes rules and enforces laws and regulations pertaining to animal agriculture and establishes operating policies for the state veterinarian's office. The board may take necessary action to control, suppress, and eradicate any and all contagious and infectious diseases among any of the domestic animals and nontraditional livestock of the state.

Appointed by the governor, the nine-member board includes representatives from the purebred and commercial beef, dairy, sheep, swine, bison and nontraditional livestock industries, as well as two veterinarians. The board appoints a consulting veterinarian from the staff at North Dakota State University. The state veterinarian provides a report to the board at their quarterly meetings.

Current board members are:

Melvin Leland, Sidney, MT - President	Joel Olson, Almont Commercial Beef Cattle
Purebred Cattle	David Pearson, Hettinger
Dr. Morgan Dallman, Beulah - Secretary	Sheep
Veterinarian	Shawn Schafer, Turtle Lake
Dr. Gerald Kitto, McClusky Veterinarian	Non-Traditional Livestock
Kristi Doll, New Salem Dairy	Ryan Homelvig, New Rockford Bison
Kevin Blake, Cando Swine	Dr. Michelle Mostrom, Fargo Consulting Veterinarian

with minimal to no additional testing and health certification requirements. Reviewing laboratory reports, field reports, test charts and certificates of veterinary inspection is necessary to maintain North Dakota's status. About 20,000 animals are tested for brucellosis annually, and more than 40,000 head are tested for bovine tuberculosis annually.

The ND Voluntary John's Disease Control Program provides resources to producers and veterinarians to help reduce the incidence of the disease in herds in North Dakota. During the biennium, 167 beef and 14 dairy herds, three sheep flocks and a goat herd participated in the program.

The Animal Health Division and the state veterinarian assists law enforcement in inhumane treatment of animal cases. About 105 reports were investigated during the biennium. Staff veterinarians provided expertise when these cases were investigated and/or prosecuted. The state veterinarian also contracts accredited veterinarians to assist law enforcement with investigations.

The division enforces licensing and rules relating to nontraditional livestock, such as deer, indigenous birds and other exotic species. Currently, 60 non-traditional livestock premises are licensed and 52 elk premises are approved. The division issued 102 permits to possess, propagate or domesticate pheasants, quail, and chukar for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

Eleven livestock auction markets were operating within the state during the biennium. Regular inspections are conducted to provide a safe environment for livestock. An auction market veterinarian, who acts as a BOAH agent, inspects animals for disease prior to sale. The BOAH approves the veterinary inspector recommended by the livestock auction market.

The division licenses and inspects modified live vaccine outlets, and provides the continuing education, required by state law, to entities wishing to sell products containing modified live germs, cultures or viruses for treatment or vaccination of domestic animals. In 2014, 64 permits were issued.

Registration of livestock medicine has been transferred to the Animal Health Division. Approximately 1,351 products are currently registered in North Dakota.

The state veterinarian works with the North Dakota Department of Health on zoonotic disease issues and with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department on diseases of wildlife and nontraditional livestock. The office works with the federal area district director for North Dakota and South Dakota, in activities required under national disease eradication or control programs. The office also works with USDA's Wildlife Services Division and with the State Game and Fish agency on feral swine issues and wildlife disease surveillance.

Through limited and unpredictable federal cooperative agreements, the state has been able to provide funds to help veterinarians and their clients with syndromic surveillance for new emerging or re-emerging diseases that might otherwise go undiagnosed.

The division assists the Department of Emergency Services with establishing and stocking animal shelters as needed. The veterinarians and the support staff assist with sheltering when local staff is limited. The state veterinarian made arrangements to maintain an ongoing agreement with National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition (NARSC), a national sheltering coalition, for their additional expertise and assistance for large-scale sheltering in the event of an emergency.

Animal ID

Plans for a national animal identification program were replaced with the national Animal Disease Traceability program, which allows states to use their own protocols to meet minimum national standards. The Animal Health Division works with the North Dakota Stockmen's Association on premises registration and animal traceability efforts. An animal identification working group, made up of livestock industry representatives provides input on the development of a workable animal disease traceability plan in North Dakota.

North Dakota has its own animal tracking database (ATD). Producers can submit information that they wish to have held in the database. About 9,000 livestock premises have been registered.

LIVESTOCK SERVICES

Director

Shaun Quissell

Dairy/Poultry

Orville Payne
Ken Quanbeck
John Ringsrud

State Meat Inspection

Andrea Grondahl, DVM
Heather Andersen
Easton Brown
Joshua Epperly
Cody Kreft
Cami Metzger
Julie Nilges
Sherlynn Olson
David Slack
Shawn Steffen
Whitney Vogel

Livestock Pollution Prevention

Jason Wirtz

Feed Registration

Dave Phillips

Livestock Development

Amber Boeshans
Jessie Pfaff

Information Coordinator

Nathan Kroh

Administrative Assistant

Becky Gietzen
Angela Rittmiller

Wildlife Services

Phil Mastrangelo - Director

Livestock Services includes duties and functions related to dairy production, feed registration, livestock sales, meat inspection, animal waste management and animal damage control.

Livestock Licensing

The division licenses livestock dealers and livestock auction markets, who must first post adequate bond, file a current financial statement and pass basic tests of financial responsibility. Random visits are conducted to discover unlicensed dealers at the states licensed Auction Markets.

Dealer licenses cost \$50 annually and are valid from July 1 to June 30; 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 the department's web site. Wool dealer licenses are \$10 and are valid from July 1 through June 30.

Dairy

The dairy inspection staff visited the state's 89 dairy farms an average of three times a year during the biennium, checking for equipment cleanliness and proper use and storage of drugs, and verifying that the water supply meets approved standards. Inspectors also conducted about 150 inspections of distribution facilities and more than 200 inspections of farm bulk trucks and samplers.

North Dakota's three fluid milk processing plants and two manufacturing plants are inspected quarterly. Inspectors collect samples of raw milk and finished products monthly at Grade A facilities and quarterly at manufacturing grade facilities. Samples are tested for bacteria, somatic cells, coliforms and drug residues.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture contracts the Dairy Division to inspect manufacturing grade dairy plants. The division also conducts the Interstate Milk Shippers surveys of 20 listed (certified) producer groups and two plants. IMS certification allows raw milk and finished products to be shipped out of state.

The division licenses processors, distributors, testers and bulk haulers of milk and dairy products in North Dakota. Anyone buying milk from producers must be bonded and licensed.

Poultry

The Dairy Division also serves as the Poultry Division. The division inspects small flock egg production operations, allowing the 13 such

producers currently in the state to directly market eggs to institutions such as schools and nursing homes.

Livestock Pollution Prevention

NDDA is in the 15th year of the Livestock Pollution Prevention Program that provides educational, technical and financial assistance to livestock producers for manure containment systems. The program worked with about 150 livestock producers since the program began. An EPA 319 grant funds the program through September 2018.

NDDA is beginning its sixth year in the North Dakota Verified Livestock Program which provides age and source verification services to beef cattle producers to aid in accessing market opportunities for their cattle. The program has provided services to more than 400 cattle producers and has an enrollment of approximately 100,000 calves.

Meat and Poultry Inspection

The State Meat and Poultry Inspection Program (SMPIP) currently regulates 84 processing plants. Twelve plants are “state inspected” or official state establishments at which livestock is slaughtered and/or processed under regulated inspection. One plant is applying for a “selected establishment” operating under the Cooperative Interstate Shipment (CIS) Program.

Inspectors perform both ante mortem and post-mortem examinations of each animal and perform various tasks during processing activities.

The final products from official state establishments carry the state inspection mark and may be sold retail or wholesale only within North Dakota. Certain nontraditional products, such as buffalo or elk, may be sold out of the state if they meet special criteria. The final products from selected establishments carry the USDA inspection mark and may be sold nationwide.

The remaining 72 plants are custom exempt establishments which offer slaughter and/or processing services for a fee. Animals to be slaughtered or the meat to be processed belong to the customer, not the establishment. All of the products derived

from the custom operations must be returned to the owner. 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. These products may only be sold at the retail counter within the plant. SMPIP inspects these plants two to four times annually.

NDDA in cooperative agreement with the Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) provides beef grading services to producers, state-inspected and federally inspected meat processing plants. Two SMPIP inspectors have certified as graders.

NDDA and AMS have a cooperative agreement for country of origin labeling. The agreement requires surveillance audits of retail outlets for compliance with provisions in the 2002 and 2008 Farm Bills. Covered commodities include whole cuts of beef, pork, lamb, goat and chicken; ground beef, ground pork, ground lamb, ground goat and ground chicken; fish and shellfish; fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables; peanuts, pecans, macadamia nuts and ginseng.

Feed Registration

Approximately 4,034 commercial feeds and 8,664 pet foods are registered in the state. Labels are reviewed for all new products submitted for registration including 7,756 pet foods and 3,024 commercial feed products during the 2013-15 biennium. Also 155 feeds and pet food samples were collected and tested. When lab results showed discrepancies between labeling and actual feed content, letters were sent to the manufacturers of these products requesting corrections. During the same period, 394 feed manufacturers and 232 feed retailers were licensed. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration contracted NDDA to conduct medicated feed plant inspections, tissue residue inspections, and bovine spongiform encephalopathy inspections.

Wildlife Services

Wildlife Services (WS) program is administered by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture through cooperative agreements with the North Dakota ag-

riculture commissioner, the North Dakota Game & Fish Department and the State Water Commission.

A combination of state and federal funds was used to mitigate problems with coyotes, beaver, and waterfowl. During the 2013-2015 biennium, WS responded to 4,900 occurrences of coyote damage to livestock. Assistance was also provided to state and county highway departments, water resource districts, and landowners in response to 900,000 dollars in damages caused by beaver. WS trapped problem animals on 516 properties and removed 70 beaver dams with explosives and 80 by hand.

In response to blackbird damage to sunflowers, WS loaned 581 propane cannons and distributed 28,800 rounds of pyrotechnics at no cost to 189 producers.

WS consulted with 3,100 home and landowners who reported conflicts caused by 44 species of wildlife. Equipment such as live traps and frightening devices were provided free-of-charge and 7,200 information leaflets were distributed.

PESTICIDE & FERTILIZER

Director

Vacant

Pesticide

Sara Beaudrie
Kevin Coufal
Andrew Erickson
Darrell Haseleu
James Jeske
Tyler Kralicek
Brian Kramer
Jonathan Krei
Jill Nannenga
Derek Woehl

Fertilizer

Eric Delzer
Patrick Hart

Environmental Science

Jerry Sauter

Project Safe Send

Jeremiah Lien

Administrative Assistant

Brandy Kiefel

The Pesticide & Fertilizer Division is responsible for North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) functions and duties related to regulation of pesticides and fertilizers.

Pesticide Enforcement

The Pesticide Enforcement program randomly inspects pesticide dealers, commercial and private applicators, and repackaging facilities. Pesticide enforcement staff conducted 918 and 740 inspections in federal fiscal years 2014 and 2015, respectively. As a result of these inspections, NDDA issued 214 enforcement actions, including 127 warnings and 97 civil penalties. In addition to inspections, the Pesticide Enforcement program responded to complaints of alleged pesticide misuse. The department continues to use all available strategies, including inspections, complaint investigations and outreach to educate the public on the risks associated with pesticide misuse and to gain compliance with pesticide laws and rules. Staff reached approximately 7,500 people during public and private compliance assistance and outreach events in federal fiscal years 2014 and 2015.

Worker Protection Standard

The Worker Protection Standard protects workers and pesticide handlers from pesticide exposure in farm, forest, greenhouse, and nursery settings. NDDA personnel provided outreach to help businesses and farms comply with the standard. Inspections were conducted to monitor compliance and provide additional education. A new WPS rule was in the process of being passed on the National level and outreach will continue to educate the state about the new changes.

Pesticide Registration

The Pesticide Registration program registered 12,313 pesticide products in the past biennium, including insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, disinfectants, rodenticides and other chemicals intended to kill, repel, and otherwise mitigate pests. As part of the pesticide registration process, the NDDA reviewed product labeling to ensure that it was enforceable, complied with federal requirements, and adequately mitigated risk to human health and the environment.

Sections 18 and 24(c) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) authorize NDDA to ensure that pesticide uses are available to address significant pest problems. The department issued six Section 24(c) Special Local Needs (SLN) registrations during the biennium to address pests of local concern.

Adding new SLN registrations to previously-issued active registrations resulted in the NDDA managing 26 SLN registrations during the biennium. Two Section 18 emergency exemptions were issued during the biennium.

Fertilizer Registration

A total of 4,303 fertilizer products, ranging from home and garden fertilizers to commercial agricultural fertilizers and soil conditioners, were registered in the biennium. North Dakota currently licenses 650 fertilizer distributors and 334 anhydrous ammonia facilities.

During the biennium, 356 fertilizer samples, including 261 ag fertilizers and 95 specialty fertilizer products, were tested to ensure that chemical composition matched label claims. NDDA collected tonnage fees on a total of 4,006,756 tons of fertilizer distributed in the state last biennium.

Project Safe Send

Project Safe Send is a program for collecting old and unwanted pesticides from the public so that they can be disposed of safely and legally. The NDDA hosted twelve Safe Send collection sites in both 2013 and 2014. More than 559,000 pounds of pesticides were collected. More than 700 people disposed of pesticides through Project Safe Send last biennium.

Pesticide Water Quality

NDDA worked with the North Dakota Department of Health in the biennium to sample 30 river and stream sites for 99 pesticides and pesticide degradates.

As part of its obligations to EPA, NDDA assessed 12 pesticides in 2013 and 12 pesticides in 2014 for their potential to contaminate groundwater and surface water. As part of this assessment process, acetochlor was identified as a pesticide of concern in 2014. NDDA continues to monitor surface water for pesticides to ensure that levels do not pose a risk of unreasonable adverse effects to human health or the environment.

Endangered Species Program

North Dakota was the first state to establish an Endangered Species Protection Program (ESPP). As part of the program, NDDA worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to identify pesticide uses that pose a significant risk to threatened and endangered species in North Dakota. The ESPP requires NDDA to supply EPA with data and recommendations relating to pesticides and their potential to impact listed species.

IP Management in Schools Program

The Integrated Pest Management in Schools Program is a non-regulatory program focused on providing primary and secondary schools with information and tools to reduce pesticide risk and exposure to children, educators and staff. The program's goal is increasing school adoption of integrated pest management strategies, including the use of physical, cultural, biological and chemical techniques, for achieving long-term, environmentally-sound pest control and reducing use of pesticides in school settings. The program employs strategies to reduce sources of food, water and shelter for pests in school buildings and grounds. It also involves the prudent and careful use of pesticides and appropriate training of staff members who use pesticide products.

PLANT INDUSTRIES

Director

Carrie Larson

Plant Protection

Charles Elhard

Lane Kozel

Rachel Seifert-Spilde

Noxious Weeds

Chelsey Penuel

Apiary

Samantha Brunner

Plant Industries is responsible for North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) functions and duties related to crop production. These include plant protection, noxious weed control, apiary and nursery regulation.

Noxious Weeds Program

NDDA coordinates the efforts of county and city weed boards and state and federal land managers to implement weed management programs. Through state appropriations, county and city weed boards offer cost-share funding to landowners for noxious weed control. During the 2013-2015 biennium, 47 counties were reimbursed a total of \$964,939 for control of noxious weeds through the Landowner Assistance Program (LAP).

The Targeted Assistance Grant (TAG) program provides cost-share funds to county and city weed boards to meet specified noxious weed control needs. During the 2013-2015 biennium, \$232,736 was reimbursed to local weed boards to buy equipment, software, and supplies to survey and map noxious weeds, conduct biocontrol ac-

2013-15 Noxious weed control funding

	General Funds	Special Funds
Landowner Assistance	\$66,908.70	\$898,030.05
Targeted Assistance	\$73,845.95	\$158,890.54

tivities and other activities.

The U.S. Forest Service reimbursed NDDA \$57,689.78 during the 2013-2015 biennium. These funds enabled NDDA to survey, map and control houndstongue and other noxious weeds; rehabilitate flooded and degraded lands; purchase, release, redistribute and monitor biological control agents; print and distribute weed identification guides, host weed identification and other workshops; and map biocontrol release sites.

Fifty counties have weed mapping capability using a datalogger GPS supplied through a grant from the NDDA. Counties provided NDDA with nearly 4 million GPS data points during the biennium. Yearly maps are provided to participating weed boards.

NDDA administers a weed seed-free forage program that meets the North American Weed Management standards. From July 1, 2013 to

the end of the 2013 growing season, eleven certified forage inspectors inspected 5,758.15 acres producing approximately 15,155 certified bales. During the 2014 growing season, 12 of 18 certified inspectors inspected 11,743.66 acres in 13 counties and certified 21,510 bales of weed seed-free forage, which consisted of alfalfa, mixed hay, and wheat, barley, and oat straw. During the 2015 growing season up to June 30, 2015, four out of 24 certified forage inspectors inspected 72 acres in four counties certifying 1,244 bales of alfalfa/grass mix.

NDDA participates in the Lake Oahe and Lake

North Dakota's Noxious Weeds

Absinth wormwood (*Artemisia absinthium* L.)

Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense* L.)

Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria genistifolia* spp. *Dalmatica*)

Diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa* Lam.)

Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula* L.)

Musk thistle (*Carduus nutans* L.)

Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria* L., *Lythrum girgatum* L. and all cultivars)

Russian knapweed (*Centaurea repens* L.)

Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe* spp. *micranthos*)

Saltcedar (*Tamarix* spp.)

Yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*)

Sakakawea Noxious Weed Task Forces that focus on survey and control efforts of noxious weeds along North Dakota's lakes and rivers.

Plant Protection Program

The Plant Protection Program conducts a pest survey program for exotic plant pests and pests of phytosanitary export significance. Surveys included Karnal bunt, exotic wood borers, Emerald

ash borer, Japanese beetle, small grain insects and diseases, potato cyst nematode, exotic honey bee pests, other plant parasitic nematodes and barberry.

Public education regarding exotic pest threats is accomplished through distribution of outreach materials and presentations. Emerald ash borer and Japanese beetle were the primary exotic threats that were targeted.

Export certification services were provided to exporters to satisfy the plant pest regulations of other states and foreign countries. A memorandum of understanding with USDA-APHIS was maintained to allow issuance of federal phytosanitary certificates. More than 6,385 federal phytosanitary certificates were issued during the biennium involving 132 applicants, 29 grain crops, 12 seed crops including seed potatoes, milled products (wheat, durum, flax, buckwheat, mustard, pea, lentil, and chickpea) and nursery stock. Certificates were issued to 98 foreign countries.

Export certification documents issued to satisfy phytosanitary requirements of Canada and California included certification of cereal grain moving in-transit through Canada (35 compliance agreements – 477 certificates), cereal seed exported to Canada (six active compliance agreements – 112 certificates), cereal grain exported to Canada (two active compliance agreements – 143 certificates), grain corn exported to California for European Corn Borer quarantine (75 compliance agreements – 1686 certificates), and cereal grain exported to California for cereal leaf beetle quarantine (39 certificates).

Nursery growers and dealers must be licensed, and all nursery stock that is sold must be from inspected sources and certified to be practically free from damaging pests (NDCC 4-21). In 2014 there were 290 nursery licenses issued including 38 growers covering 1,200 acres of field grown nursery stock. In 2015 there were 299 nursery licenses issued including 38 growers covering 1,200 acres of field grown nursery stock. Permits were issued to 146 dealers to import and sell stem rust resistant barberry from 20 approved out-of-state suppliers.

Nursery growers are inspected for insects and diseases, allowing for both intrastate and interstate movement as well as some international sales. The most common causes of refusal of certification were needlecast diseases of spruce, wood borer infestations and failure to maintain adequate weed control or overcrowded conditions resulting in the inability to conduct adequate inspections.

Nursery stock at dealer locations was inspected to detect pest introductions, enforce the black stem rust (barberry) quarantine and to enforce viability and hardiness requirements. Dealer inspections were conducted at 278 locations in 2014-2015 with non-hardy labeling violations the most common citation.

Apiary Program

NDDA is responsible for licensing all beekeepers, registering bee colonies and bee yards.

In 2013 NDDA licensed 205 beekeepers and registered 482,560 colonies at more than 11,050 locations. In 2014 NDDA licensed 228 beekeepers and registered 522,940 colonies on 12,521 registered locations. A major activity of the apiary program is the inspection of migratory bee colonies for diseases, including American foulbrood, European foulbrood, sacbrood and chalkbrood. Inspectors also check for varroa mites and small hive beetles. A majority of beekeepers are migratory, moving their bees to warmer climates in the winter, where they pollinate many crops, such as almonds, apples and citrus fruits. NDDA also investigates complaints about bees and serves as a liaison between landowners, the general public and beekeepers.

Honey Promotion

The North Dakota Honey Assessments Act (N.D.C.C. § 4.1-08) assesses ten cents on each licensed honey bee colony with a minimum assessment of \$1 per beekeeper. All proceeds are deposited in the Honey Promotion Fund. The apiary program administers the Honey Promotion Fund with the advice of the North Dakota Beekeepers Association. Beekeepers who do not wish to participate in the program may ask for an assessment refund if they had contributed at least five dollars.

During the 2013-15 biennium, the Honey Fund was used for special promotions and research to benefit the honey industry.

Honey Promotion Fund	
Revenue	
Honey promotion fees	\$107,237.95
Interest	\$62.79
2011-13 carry-over funds	<u>\$64,214.15</u>
Total revenue	\$171,514.89
Expenditures	
Operating expenses	\$65,828.75
Total expenditures	<u>\$65,828.75</u>
Balance (6-30-15)	\$105,686.14

STATE FAIR

Fair Manager

Renaë Korslien

North Dakota law (NDCC 4-02.1-26) requires that an annual report of the North Dakota 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 reprinting these documents is unnecessary if they are referenced in the department's biennial report because they are published elsewhere at state expense and are readily available.

For a complete report on the state fair and the North Dakota State Fair Association for the 2013-2015 biennium, please refer to the 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.

North Dakota Department of Agriculture

Funding & Expenditures 2013-15

<u>Expenditures by Line Item</u>	Current Appropriation	Expenditures	Remaining	Percent remaining
Salaries and Wages	\$10,832,022.00	\$9,679,427.27	\$1,152,594.73	11%
Accrued Leave Payments	\$237,295.00	\$73,990.87	\$163,304.13	69%
Operating Expenses	\$5,885,262.00	\$4,521,336.75	\$1,363,925.25	23%
Capital Assets	\$12,000.00	\$8,697.46	\$3,302.54	28%
Grants	\$5,075,828.00	\$3,694,809.01	\$1,381,018.99	27%
Board Of Animal Health	\$2,143,901.00	\$1,924,261.08	\$219,639.92	10%
Wildlife Services	\$1,417,400.00	\$1,417,400.00	\$0.00	0%
Pipeline Oversight Program	\$400,000.00	\$0.00	\$400,000.00	100%
Crop Harmonization Board	\$75,000.00	\$69,888.92	\$5,111.08	7%
Total Expenditures	\$26,078,708.00	\$21,389,811.36	\$4,688,896.64	18%
<u>Expenditures by Funding Source</u>				
General Fund	\$9,524,117.00	\$9,300,530.94	\$223,586.06	2%
Federal Funds	\$8,544,390.00	\$5,594,441.35	\$2,949,948.65	35%
Special Funds	\$8,010,201.00	\$6,494,839.07	\$1,515,361.93	19%
Total Expenditures by Source	\$26,078,708.00	\$21,389,811.36	\$4,688,896.64	18%

LEGISLATION

The following is a summary of legislation passed during the biennium that related to the North Dakota Department of Agriculture.

HB 2009 - Relating to the salary of the agriculture commissioner; to provide for transfers; and to declare an emergency

HB 1180 - Relating to the confidentiality of mediation

HB 1436 - Relating to industrial hemp

SB 2025 - Relating to beekeeping; to amend and reenact section 4.1-08-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the submission of assessments by beekeepers; to repeal chapter 4-12.2 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to beekeeping; and to provide a penalty

SB 2271 - Relating to a pipeline and reclamation oversight program; to provide an appropriation; and to declare an emergency

HB 1432 - Relating to federal environmental legislation and regulations that detrimentally impact or have the potential to detrimentally impact the state's agricultural, energy, or oil production sectors; to provide for a transfer; to provide for a continuing appropriation; and to provide an appropriation

SB 2186 - Relating to honey assessments; and to provide an effective date