

NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Biennial Report
2015 - 2017



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

DOUG GOEHRING, COMMISSIONER

CONTENTS

A Message from the Commissioner	ii
Mission Statement	iii
Organizational Chart	iv
Administration	1
The 2015-17 Biennium: A Timeline	4
Administrative Services	11
Marketing & Information	13
Animal Health	17
Livestock Services	20
Pesticide & Fertilizer	23
Plant Industries	26
State Fair	29
Funding & Expenditures	30
Legislation	31

A Message from the Commissioner

My Fellow North Dakotans,

North Dakota can take pride in the achievements and contributions of the state's 29,800 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, dry edible peas, flax and honey. North Dakota also ranks near the top in soybeans, lentils, barley, sugarbeets, oats and potatoes.

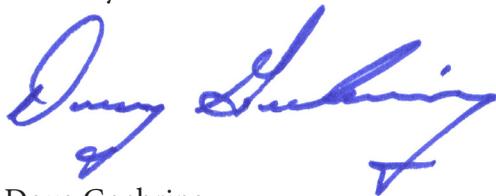
They have done this despite less than ideal growing conditions. The 2017 drought significantly reduced hay for livestock, and compromised quality and yields on crops for many producers. Plant diseases, insects and other plant pests caused further losses. Yet our farmers and ranchers continued to provide 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.

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, §4.1-01-08
- Regulating dairy and poultry industries, §4.1-05 and §4.1-19.
- Licensing and bonding of livestock auction markets and individuals selling livestock, §4.1-27 and §4.1-83.
- Controlling and eradicating bee diseases and licensing of beekeepers, §4.1-16.
- Developing, supervising and participating in programs to protect plant life from disease and insects, §4.1-23.
- 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, §4.1-22.
- Administering and enforcing state and federal pesticide laws, §4.1-33.
- Licensing and inspection of anhydrous ammonia bulk facilities, §4.1-37.

- Administering noxious weed laws, §4.1-47.
- Administering the Agriculture in the Classroom program, §4.1-01-22.
- Cooperating with federal agencies in controlling animals that cause property damage, §4.1-01-05.
- Administering the State Waterbank program, §4.1-01-15.
- Promoting honey and honey products, §4.1-08.
- Promoting the turkey industry, §4.1-12.
- Administering the cultivated ginseng law, §4.1-17.
- Registering crop protection products with Canadian labels, §4.1-39-03.
- Licensing industrial hemp growers, §4.1-18.
- Registering animal feeds and licensing and regulating animal feed products, §4.1-41.
- Registering and regulating livestock medicines, §4.1-43.
- Registering and regulating pesticide sales, §4.1-34.
- Registering and enforcing laws pertaining to fertilizers and soil conditioners, §4.1-40.
- Administering a state meat and poultry inspection program, §4.1-31.
- Administering a pipeline restoration and reclamation oversight program, §4.1-01-17.
- Overseeing a federal environmental law impact review committee, §4.1-01-18.
- Administering a wind energy restoration and reclamation oversight program, §4.1-01-23.

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
- 129,000 Pound Primary Truck Network
- Great Northern Corridor

The 2015-17 Biennium: A Timeline

2015

July 1 – Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring asks individuals and groups to grow and distribute at least 1 million servings of fresh produce for the 2015 Hunger Free North Dakota Garden Project.

July 9 - Midwest state agriculture leaders gather in Madison, WI at the Midwest Association of State Departments of Agriculture (MASDA) annual meeting to discuss agriculture issues including endangered species, grain inspection, and antimicrobial resistance and research. Agriculture Commissioner Goehring introduces two policy amendments and two action items for MASDA's recommendation to the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) meeting later that year.

July 17 - Research proposals are sought that support or promote the grape, wine and fruit industry in North Dakota.

July 20 - Pride of Dakota Day celebrates its 27th year at the North Dakota State Fair with a Pride of Dakota vendor showcase, lunch, a Pride of Dakota Food Contest featuring honey and Snack Stick Challenge.

July 24 - State departments of health and agriculture issue blue-green algae advisory.

July 27 - Tularemia, an uncommon disease that humans can catch from animals and insects, is identified in four North Dakota counties.

July 27 - Winners are named in the state fair taste-test contests.

July 29 - Commissioner Goehring announces the availability of \$40,000 to help North Dakota communities and schools plant orchards in 2016.

July 29 - Proposals are sought for developing and conducting Ag in the Classroom educational programs and materials to help young people

understand the importance of agriculture in North Dakota and their own lives.

Aug. 4 - Commissioner Goehring announces that up to \$75,000 is available to fund research of honeybees.

Aug. 5 - The 11th annual North Dakota Farmers Market Day at the Capitol is held.

Aug. 6 - The North Dakota State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) reminds the public that livestock entering North Dakota from any state under quarantine for vesicular stomatitis are required to be accompanied by an Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI), importation permit number and vesicular stomatitis statement.

Aug. 11 - Commissioner Goehring activates the Harvest Hotline, a hotline to match up farmers needing custom combining and combiners looking for a job.

Aug. 12 - Commissioner Goehring announces that Project Safe Send brings in 192 tons of unwanted pesticides - an all-time record - during the collections conducted during July in 12 North Dakota communities.

Aug. 21 - State departments of health and agriculture repeat warning to avoid blue-green algae.

Sept. 4 - A reminder is issued that the deadline for the 2015 grape and wine grant applications is less than two weeks away.

Sept. 9 - The state's second reported case of anthrax is a reminder to livestock producers to take action to protect their animals from the disease.

Sept. 10 - Commissioner Goehring says a recent policy change by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) on what constitutes an anhydrous ammonia retail facility is an overreach of federal authority and should be withdrawn and reconsidered.

Sept. 17 - The State Capitol hosts the annual Pride

of Dakota Day at the Capitol along with a farmers market at the top of the Capitol loop on the south lawn.

Sept. 25 - Commissioner Goehring approves \$108,600 in grants to develop and conduct Agriculture in the Classroom programs through June 2017.

Sept. 28 - More than 54,222 from 235 North Dakota schools dined on food products from their own state during the 14th Annual Pride of Dakota School Lunch Day.

Oct. 5 - Commissioner Goehring praises the U.S. Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management for investigating how federal agencies determine whether to produce guidance or engage in formal rulemaking.

Oct. 13 - Commissioner Goehring awards 27 grants totaling over \$2.4 million to promote the development, cultivation, production and sales of specialty crops in North Dakota.

Oct. 17-18 - The Pride of Dakota Harvest Showcase returns to the Raymond Family Community Center in Williston.

Oct. 20 - The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) is awarded a multi-year grant from the United States Food and Drug Administration to develop outreach and educational programs focused on preventing drug residues in animal-derived foods and addressing antimicrobial-resistance issues through the prudent use of medically important antibiotics in animal agriculture.

Oct. 26 - Commissioner Goehring announces an additional \$100,000 is available to fund research, education, outreach and promotion of honeybees.

Oct. 27 - Participants are sought for the NDDA's industrial hemp pilot program for the purposes of agricultural or academic research.

Nov. 2 - A delegation of agriculture representatives led by Commissioner Goehring return from

a trade mission to Cuba that focused on relationships, food security and economic security.

Nov. 3 - The Seibel Dairy Farm of Moffit receives the Commissioner's Award of Dairy Excellence during the 2015 North Dakota Dairy Convention.

Nov. 5 - The deadline for reimbursement for organic certification costs through the United States Department of Agriculture National Organic Certification Cost Share Program is less than two weeks away.

Nov. 7-8 - The Pride of Dakota Holiday Showcase returns to the Alerus Center in Grand Forks with more than 100 vendors.

Nov. 9 - The NDDA hosts two town hall meetings to discuss their pipeline restoration and reclamation program in Tioga and Watford City.

Nov. 12 - The NDDA holds a free seminar to explain the requirements of a recent policy change by OSHA affecting anhydrous ammonia retail facilities.

Nov. 14 - The NDDA holds a workshop on growing hops in Minot.

Nov. 14-15 - The Pride of Dakota Holiday Showcase returns to the State Fair Center in Minot with more than 100 vendors.

Nov. 16 - The North Dakota Turkey Federation presents Thanksgiving turkeys to Gov. Jack Dalrymple and Commissioner Goehring.

Nov. 20-22 - The Pride of Dakota Holiday Showcase returns to the Scheels Arena in Fargo with more than 125 vendors.

Nov. 30 - The annual Pesticide and Fertilizer Forum is held in Fargo.

Dec. 4-6 - The Pride of Dakota Holiday Showcase returns to the Bismarck Event Center with more than 200 vendors.

Dec. 8 - Commissioner Goehring encourages comments to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on proposed changes for pesticide applicators.

Dec. 9 - Commissioner Goehring encourages comments to the EPA on tolerance revocations

for the insecticide chlorpyrifos, the most widely applied insecticide in North Dakota.

Dec. 11 - BOAH rescinds an order to halt bird movement to shows, exhibitions and public sales within the state. The order had been put into place to protect North Dakota's poultry industry during the midst of a nationwide outbreak of avian influenza.

Dec. 14 - The Coyote Catalog, a statewide effort to connect coyote hunters and trappers with landowners who are dealing with coyotes in their areas, opens for the winter.

Dec. 16 - The NDDA hosts a free webinar on Whole-Farm Revenue Protection.

Dec. 17 - More than 38,000 shoppers, a new record, participated in the four Pride of Dakota Holiday Showcases in November and December 2015.

Dec. 31 - Commissioner Goehring awards grants totaling \$109,300.67 for five projects relating to honey bee research and promotion.

2016

Jan. 5 - Weed control officials from across the state gather for the 2016 North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner's Weed Forum.

Jan. 7 - The OSHA anhydrous ammonia rule is temporarily suspended until fiscal year 2016 ends.

Jan. 11 - Commissioner Goehring names Joan Lorge of Amidon as the recipient of the 2016 Weed Control Partner Award.

Jan. 20 - Commissioner Goehring approves four proposals for the industrial hemp pilot program.

Jan. 22 - Commissioner Goehring announces that grants are available to help producers transition land to certified organic production.

Jan. 28 - Commissioner Goehring awards grants totaling \$51,125 for 12 projects to develop orchards and plant trees in local communities.

Feb. 3 - M & L Concessions in Beulah becomes the newest North Dakota company operating under

the State Meat and Poultry Inspection Program.

Feb. 5 - Commissioner Goehring announces that the Hunger Free ND Garden Project has recorded volunteer donations of 1.4 million pounds of fresh produce to food pantries, soup kitchens, and other charitable community programs since the program started in 2010.

Feb. 5-6 - The 12th annual meeting of the North Dakota Farmers Market & Growers Association and Local Foods Conference is held in West Fargo.

Feb. 8 - Commissioner Goehring reminds anhydrous ammonia users to file the proper documentation before transferring the fertilizer from a tanker to a nurse tank in the field.

Feb. 22 - NDDA and the North Dakota Agriculture Association announce plans for a series of fertilizer and anhydrous ammonia safety training sessions across the state.

Mar. 14 - Commissioner Goehring announces that applications are being accepted for the 2016 Specialty Crop Grants.

Mar. 18 - North Dakota Agriculture Day is celebrated at the State Capitol with an awards ceremony for student poster and essay contests.

Mar. 22 - NDDA and the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDGF) seek applications for the State Waterbank Program, a water management program for North Dakota landowners and lessees, with up to \$1.2 million available for grants through funding from the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund.

Mar. 23 - The annual Pride of Dakota Day at the State Capitol is held with 50 Pride of Dakota companies selling and sampling unique products to Capitol visitors and state employees.

Apr. 27 - Commissioner Goehring announces that approximately \$100,000 is available to fund research and promotion of honey bees.

Apr. 27 - A reminder is issued that the deadline for the 2016 Specialty Crop Grant is two weeks away.

May 9 - BOAH reminds horse owners to protect their horses from equine herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1) by taking care when co-mingling horses.

May 10 - Commissioner Goehring announces the locations and dates for 2016 Project Safe Send, a program to accept old, unusable or banned pesticides at no charge.

May 12 - Gov. Jack Dalrymple proclaims May 15-21, 2016, as Animal Agriculture Awareness Week in North Dakota.

May 17 - Gov. Jack Dalrymple proclaims May 22-28, 2016, as Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week in North Dakota.

May 18 - NDDA and the NDSU Extension Service hold a free evening meeting about growing hops in Casselton.

May 31 - Commissioner Goehring issues a Special Local Needs (SLN) registration to Winfield Solutions LLC, enabling North Dakota potato producers to manage disease in long-season potatoes with Praiz fungicide.

June 2 - Commissioner Goehring announces the availability of a new interactive web-based map to facilitate contact between landowners, beekeepers and pesticide applicators.

June 6 - NDDA and the NDGF open a second application round for the State Waterbank Program, a water management program for North Dakota landowners and lessees.

June 6 - North Dakota's state veterinarian reminds livestock producers to vaccinate their animals against anthrax as conditions are right for the disease to occur.

June 7 - Commissioner Goehring announces that the deadline for honey bee research and promotion grants has been extended from June 1, 2016, to June 10, 2016.

June 15 - Field days are scheduled at four North Dakota sites to collect and redistribute flea beetles that eat leafy spurge.

July 13 - Recent field days in Billings, Grant and Stutsman counties result in the redistribution of more than 900,000 flea beetles in 303 releases throughout North Dakota for biocontrol of leafy spurge.

July 18 - Commissioner Goehring asks gardeners

across the state to donate extra fruits and vegetables to meet the needs of hungry North Dakotans as part of the 2016 Hunger Free North Dakota Garden Project, with a goal of at least 250,000 pounds of fresh produce to be grown and distributed.

July 20 - NDDA and Jamie Edwards, a pilot producer in NDDA's industrial hemp pilot program, co-host an industrial hemp field tour in Adrian.

July 21 - Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, along with Sen. Deb Fisher of Nebraska, introduce a bipartisan bill called the Fertilizer Access and Responsible Management (FARM) Act that would force OSHA to withdraw their retail exemption policy change.

July 25 - More than 20 North Dakota companies from around the state take part in the 28th annual Pride of Dakota Day at the North Dakota State Fair in Minot.

July 26 - Commissioner Goehring activates the North Dakota Harvest Hotline, a service that matches up farmers who need custom combining and combiners looking for a job.

Aug. 8 - Commissioner Goehring voices concern about the animal activist group The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) inserting themselves into North Dakota's animal welfare cases by conducting training sessions for local law enforcement using HSUS materials on animal cruelty and how to seize animals.

Aug. 10 - The 12th annual North Dakota Farmers Market Day at the Capitol is held.

Aug. 17 - At a sweet corn plot in the process of being harvested and donated to feed the hungry, Commissioner Goehring again asks gardeners across the state to donate extra fruits and vegetables from their harvest to help meet the needs of hungry North Dakotans as part of the 2016 Hunger Free North Dakota Garden Project.

Aug. 19 - Commissioner Goehring announces that applications are being accepted for reimbursement of organic certification costs through the Organic Certification Cost Share Program for fiscal year 2016.

Aug. 29 - The harvest of a three-acre sweet corn plot at Lincoln-Oakes Nurseries nets approximately 37,162 pounds of produce designated for the Hunger Free North Dakota Garden Project. The produce is donated to the Great Plains Food Bank for distribution across the state; as well as direct donations to organizations located in and around Bismarck-Mandan.

Sept. 7 - NDDA launches a new magazine called North Dakota Agriculture. The new publication provides North Dakota residents and visitors with an in-depth look at North Dakota agriculture.

Sept. 13 - The dates for upcoming Pride of Dakota events and farmers markets are announced. The annual Pride of Dakota Day at the Capitol and farmers market will take place on Sept. 15. The eighth annual Pride of Dakota Harvest Showcase in Dickinson will be held on Sept. 17-18. Pride of Dakota Holiday Showcases are scheduled for Nov. 5-6 in Grand Forks; Nov. 12-13 in Minot; Nov. 18-20 in Fargo; and Dec. 2-4 in Bismarck.

Sept. 26 - A federal appeals court strikes down the recent policy change by OSHA that would have forced retail facilities selling anhydrous ammonia to comply with Process Safety Management (PSM) rules, rules historically aimed at manufacturers.

Sept. 29 - More than 60,472 students from 237 North Dakota schools dined on food products from their own state today during the 15th Annual Pride of Dakota School Lunch Day.

Sept. 29 - Commissioner Goehring voices concern about protestors and activists near the Dakota Access Pipeline in Morton County threatening farmers, ranchers and rural residents who live and work in the area.

Oct. 11 - Commissioner Goehring reminds those coming into the state not to carry firewood with them, unless it has been heat-treated and certified as moving firewood can move invasive pests.

Oct. 12 - A new hotline is made available for farmers and ranchers affected by the Dakota Access Pipeline protests. The Farm/Ranch Emergency Assistance Hotline matches up farmers and ranchers needing assistance to finish their seasonal work with truckers, custom silage-

chipping services and other individuals available for hire.

Oct. 18 - Commissioner Goehring awards 27 grants totaling over \$2.3 million to promote the development, cultivation, production and sales of specialty crops in North Dakota.

Oct. 19 - Commissioner Goehring releases a statement regarding the impacts of the pipeline protest to farmers and ranchers in the area. Goehring discusses the threats and intimidation that have taken place as well as the financial impacts that producers are suffering.

Oct. 25 - Commissioner Goehring announces a partnership between the NDDA and North Dakota Farm Management Education to provide credit counseling services through the North Dakota Mediation Service due to the increased amount of farmers and ranchers who are having financial difficulty.

Nov. 5-6 - The Pride of Dakota Holiday Showcase returns to the Alerus Center in Grand Forks with more than 100 companies.

Nov. 12 - NDDA holds a free hops growing workshop in Minot.

Nov. 15 - NDDA hosts two town hall meetings in Minot and Watford City to discuss their pipeline restoration and reclamation program.

Nov. 28 - A postponement is announced for the 50th Annual North Dakota Dairy Convention, which was originally scheduled for Nov. 29.

Dec. 2-4 - The Pride of Dakota Holiday Showcase returns to the Bismarck Event Center with more than 200 Pride of Dakota companies.

Dec. 7 - Kevin's Place in Beulah is the newest North Dakota company operating under the State Meat and Poultry Inspection Program.

Dec. 8 - NDDA asks producers, applicators, veterinarians, media members and anyone who regularly uses its website for their help in an attempt to gain better insight into its users' preferences as they prepare to update their site.

Dec. 12 - Participants are sought for the second year of the NDDA's industrial hemp pilot program.

Dec. 12 - Commissioner Goehring announces that \$52,500 is available to help North Dakota communities and schools plant orchards and gardens in 2017.

Dec. 15 - The Coyote Catalog, a statewide effort designed to connect coyote hunters and trappers with landowners who are dealing with coyotes in their areas, is open for the winter.

Dec. 19 - Commissioner Goehring issues a reminder for the public to understand the potential dangers of moving firewood into the state, as donations of firewood arrive at the Standing Rock Reservation and nearby camps.

2017

Jan. 12 - Commissioner Goehring names Katie Clyde as the recipient of the 2017 Weed Control Partner Award.

Feb. 3-4 - The 13th annual meeting of the North Dakota Farmers Market and Growers Association and Local Foods Conference is held in Mandan.

Feb. 6 - Commissioner Goehring announces that the Hunger Free ND Garden Project has recorded volunteer donations of 1.8 million pounds of fresh produce to food pantries, soup kitchens, and other charitable community programs since the program started in 2010.

Feb. 10 - Commissioner Goehring announces that applications are being accepted for 2017 Specialty Crop Grants.

Feb. 13 - A rule amending the EPA's Risk Management Program (RMP) is scheduled to go into effect March 14, 2017, if no changes are made by the Trump administration.

Feb. 17 - Commissioner Goehring reminds anhydrous ammonia users to file the proper documentation before transferring the fertilizer from a tanker to a nurse tank in the field.

Feb. 28 - NDDA and the NDGF seek applications for the State Waterbank Program, a water management program for North Dakota landowners and lessees, with up to \$750,000

available for grants through funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

Mar. 2 - NDDA and the NDAA announce a series of fertilizer and anhydrous ammonia safety training sessions across the state.

Mar. 15 - The annual Pride of Dakota Day at the Capitol is held.

Mar. 21 - The state's No. 1 industry is celebrated during National Ag Day.

Mar. 23 - The state veterinarian encourages increased biosecurity for poultry owners in light of the confirmation of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in a commercial chicken breeder flock in Tennessee, the second finding in that state.

Mar. 28 - Commissioner Goehring approves 35 proposals for the industrial hemp pilot program for the 2017 growing season.

Mar. 30 - Commissioner Goehring encourages farmers and ranchers in northeast and north central North Dakota to monitor conditions and evaluate their operations for potential flood impacts that could affect livestock and other property.

Apr. 4 - BOAH and NDDA investigate and test cattle in North Dakota related to herds in South Dakota affected by bovine tuberculosis. Testing to date finds no evidence of tuberculosis infection in North Dakota.

Apr. 6 - A reminder is issued that the deadline for the 2017 Specialty Crop Grant is two weeks away.

Apr. 17 - Commissioner Goehring reminds the public to be aware of invasive species by purchasing plants at a local, reputable nursery, garden center or seed source; buying or gathering firewood locally or using certified, heat-treated firewood; and reporting any possible invasive pests to the NDDA or a local extension office.

Apr. 18 - NDDA advises the public to be aware of and learn to identify Palmer amaranth, a pigweed species that has the potential to be devastating to North Dakota agriculture.

Apr. 19 - North Dakota Agriculture Day is celebrated at the State Capitol with agriculture-

related display booths and tables, and a news conference announcing the student winners of the 2017 Ag in the Classroom Calendar Art Contest.

Apr. 20 - Commissioner Goehring awards grants totaling \$52,500 for 13 projects to plant orchards and gardens in local communities.

May 2 - A delay is possible for rules affecting anhydrous ammonia retailers.

May 8 - Commissioner Goehring announces that approximately \$110,000 is available to fund research and promotion of honey bees.

May 15 - Dates and locations are announced for 2017 Project Safe Send, a program that accepts old, unusable or banned pesticides.

May 22 - Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Awareness Week is announced as May 21-27. The public is reminded not to move uncertified firewood out of the local area to help prevent the spread of EAB.

June 7 - Commissioner Goehring announces a hotline available for ranchers affected by the drought. The Drought Hotline will connect ranchers who need hay to those with hay to sell, with pasture or hayland to rent or to those who are available to move hay.

June 14 - Field days are scheduled at six North Dakota sites to collect and redistribute flea beetles that eat leafy spurge.

June 15 - Commissioner Goehring announces the launch of an interactive online map designed to display the information being gathered by the Drought Hotline. The map details counties where producers have called the hotline expressing a need for hay, as well as those with hay to sell, pasture or hayland to rent, and individuals who are available to move hay.

June 21 - NDDA launches a newly redesigned website.

June 21 - Commissioner Goehring sends a request to USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue to help North Dakota ranchers by releasing Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres for early haying and grazing due to the severity on the ongoing drought conditions in the state.

June 23 - Commissioner Goehring receives word that USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue has released CRP acres in North Dakota for emergency grazing effective immediately through September 30.

June 27 - Commissioner Goehring leads a drought roundtable meeting in Mandan to discuss the current drought situation in North Dakota and the options available to producers. Topics include the status of the drought, forage quality and livestock management strategies, crop insurance forage options and the Farm Service Agency process to access CRP acres for emergency haying and grazing.

June 28 - Commissioner Goehring urges North Dakota home and property owners to check recently purchased nursery stock for Japanese beetle infestation. NDDA staff recovered live Japanese beetle larvae and pupae from containers of plants shipped from a Minnesota supplier to nurseries around the state.

June 30 - The EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers propose a rule to rescind the 2015 Waters of the United States (WOTUS) definition until a second rulemaking process with extensive stakeholder input can be completed.

June 30 - USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue expands emergency grazing of CRP acres in North Dakota to include any county in which part of its border lies within 150 miles of a county currently approved for emergency grazing.

June 30 - Commissioner Goehring receives word that USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue has designated 15 counties as primary natural disaster areas with another 11 counties designated as contiguous disaster areas.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Director

Kenneth Junkert

Financial Management

Lynette Baumiller
Jeannie Jacobs-Kopp
Samantha McGrath

Policy and Research

Jessie Pfaff
Melanie Gaebe

Mediation

Jim Hoffert
Jim Jost
Betty Schneider

Emergency Management

Kent Theurer

Administrative Services includes the North Dakota Mediation Service, the Pipeline Restoration and Reclamation Oversight Pilot Program, policy and research, emergency and risk management, fiscal management and human resources.

North Dakota Mediation Service

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.

For the 2015-2017 biennium, NDMS received 221 mediation requests. Agreement between parties was reached in 79 percent of the cases.

The six-member North Dakota Credit Review Board establishes policy for the NDMS. The board members during the 2015-2017 Biennium were:

1. Lana Anderson (Renville) – Governor’s Appointee
2. Gerald Horner (Kidder) – Governor’s Appointee
3. Paul Burtman (Williams) – Attorney General’s Appointee
4. Barry Hanson (Pembina) – Attorney General’s Appointee
5. Michael Martin (Dickey) – Agriculture Commissioner’s Appointee
6. Gerald Melvin (Cass) – Agriculture Commissioner’s Appointee

The United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency requires annual certification of state mediation programs. NDMS was recertified during both years in the 2015-2017 biennium.

Pipeline Restoration and Reclamation Oversight Pilot Program

The pipeline restoration and reclamation oversight program connects landowners and tenants experiencing pipeline reclamation and restoration issues with an independent ombudsman. The ombudsmen are the recognized lead facilitators for promoting fairness when resolving pipeline reclamation and restoration issues, concerns and disputes. The program also provides educational outreach to help

landowners/tenants consider things such as pipeline pathways, type of pipeline installation, soil impacts, type of vegetation being reestablished, timelines and other issues before signing agreements. Ombudsmen were assigned to 62 cases during the 15-17 biennium.

Policy and Research

The policy and research team works closely with the agricultural community, commodity groups and constituents to provide recommendations, resources and background on federal and state agriculture issues to the commissioner. The team also provides leadership and support to the department divisions, establishes policies and manages all legislative activity.

Emergency Management

Emergency management supports and enhances emergency communication processes and emergency planning or preparedness activities at NDDA in coordination with other governmental agencies and interested local stakeholder groups as requested. This includes coordinating staff emergency communication system capabilities and supporting department events and functions with weather or other interagency communication. Emergency management facilitates technical experts in NDDA as identified core functions are fortified that the agriculture industry and state of North Dakota depend on before, during and after disasters or emergencies.

Risk Management

Risk management coordinates safety incident reporting, workers compensation, designated medical provider and incident investigation efforts. This includes implementing proactive safety programs the department participates in including ergonomics, near miss reporting and other North Dakota risk management initiatives to help ensure staff are aware of available tools. Risk management creates a safe and effective workplace for our staff.

Fiscal Management

Fiscal management oversees the development and tracking of the department's budget. This includes processing payroll, paying all bills, depos-

iting revenue, reviewing and approving contracts, ensuring compliance with state and federal laws relating to the department's finances, tracking of expenditures and filing required reports to federal agencies, and procuring goods and services for the department.

Human Resources

Human resources (HR) administers activities such as recruitment, compensation, benefits, training, absence management and talent management. This includes communicating HR-related information to employees within the agency and responding to open record requests. HR maintains agency policies and procedures and assists the deputy commissioner with any updates/changes. HR also assists division directors and the deputy commissioner with the job classification process.

MARKETING & INFORMATION

Director

Dustin Monke

Marketing Specialists

Jamie Good

Kelly Wald

Public Information

Michelle Mielke

Grant Administrator

Emily Edlund

Information Technology

Jim Hansen

Administrative / Reception

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 and business development trainings, social media opportunities and partnerships with other agencies and organizations. 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, and it contains a listing of North Dakota retail locations that carry POD products. The website was updated in June 2017 to improve functionality on the front end for viewers and members and on the back end for managing databases.

The most visible Pride of Dakota activities are the Holiday Showcases, held annually in Bismarck, Fargo, Grand Forks and Minot. Attendance at the 2016 showcases was 30,774 people. There is also a Harvest Showcase held in Dickinson during September. Due to the popularity of these events, the Department will add a show in Jamestown in October 2017. 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 September 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 choices around the state and to help educate growers and vendors who use these markets. More than 55 farmers markets now operate in the state, reflecting an increasing demand and awareness for locally produced foods..

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, a farm to market: North Dakota's guide to direct farm marketing and the Farmers Markets of North Dakota publication..
- 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. To date, the NDDA has supported more than 45 projects across the state.

- 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. NDDA promotes the industry at trade shows throughout the state. The NDDA has also started an Organic Education and Transition Cost Share Program for North Dakota farmers transitioning to an organic system. North Dakota is the second state in the country to have such a program.

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, and maintains department websites. In June 2017, the department launched a redesigned website that enhanced the public's access to information, and included improvements for searchability, viewing the site on mobile devices, and accessing up-to-date information.

Agriculture in the Classroom

As North Dakota's population moves away from farms, ranches and smaller communities and into the larger urban settings, fewer people have direct contact with the state's agricultural sector. In 1985, the Legislature established the Agriculture in the Classroom program (NDCC 4-37-01) to develop educational materials and assist in the training of teachers in an agriculture curriculum. A six-member board, appointed by the agriculture commissioner, advises the department on the program.

An agriculture in the classroom monthly newsletter was started in 2017 and is shared with

educators throughout the state. The newsletter showcases learning sources 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 Ag in the Classroom grant program provided more than \$105,000 to organizations to enhance agriculture education throughout the state during the 2015-2017 biennium.

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.

Turkey Promotion Fund	
<u>Revenue</u>	
Turkey checkoff	\$23,635.87
Interest	\$4.88
2013-15 carryover funds	<u>\$4,859.45</u>
Total revenue	\$28,500.20
<u>Expenditures</u>	
Operating expenses	<u>\$16,563.49</u>
Total expenditures	\$16,563.49
Balance (6-30-17)	\$11,936.71

During the 2015-17 biennium, the fund was used to purchase broadcast advertising, turkeys for charitable organizations and promotional awareness materials for the state Agriculture in the Classroom program.

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 North Dakota 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, 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) works with the state Information Technology Department (ITD) to provide assistance according to the department's Service Level Agreement. This includes 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

Vacant

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, emerging and re-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 deputy state veterinarian serves as the acting state veterinarian in her absence.

The assistant state veterinarian oversees the Board of Animal Health's and the Animal Health Division's emergency response planning, the North Dakota Voluntary John's disease control and the National Poultry Improvement programs, and coordinates the Reserve Veterinary Corps (RVC). The 20-member RVC assists the state veterinarian in preparing for and carrying out emergency responses. The assistant is a liaison to the Department of Emergency Services for animal health emergencies and planning purposes.

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 8,400 incoming and 14,000 outgoing certificates of veterinary inspection per year. They also review 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 18 accredited tuberculosis-free herds, five certified brucellosis-free herds, and eight *Brucella ovis* free flocks.

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, Mont., President:
Purebred Cattle

Dr. Morgan Dallman, Golden Valley,
Secretary: Veterinarian

Dr. Gerald Kitto, McClusky: Veterinarian

Kristi Doll, New Salem: Dairy

Kevin Blake, Devils Lake: Swine

Joel Olson, Almont: Commercial Beef Cattle

David Pearson, Hettinger: Sheep

Christopher Ryckman, Bismarck: Non-
Traditional Livestock

Ryan Homelvig, New Rockford: Bison

Dr. Michelle Mostrom, Fargo: Consulting
Veterinarian

North Dakota is considered brucellosis-free, tuberculosis-free, pseudorabies free and pullorum typhoid free. This disease-free status allows interstate movement and export of animals to other states and countries, 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. Due to suspect and positive cases of TB and brucellosis that are still identified in the U.S. as part of our country's routine surveillance, disease investigations can result in the need to test varying numbers of livestock for brucellosis and tuberculosis throughout the biennium. A significant percentage of the breeding quality heifers that are used in herds or sold for breeding purposes in North Dakota are also official calf hood vaccinated (OCV) against brucellosis in an effort to prevent the reintroduction of *Brucella abortus*. 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, 170 beef and four dairy herds participated in the program.

The Animal Health Division and the state veterinarian assist law enforcement in inhumane treatment of animal cases. About 115 reports were investigated during the past 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, 51 nontraditional livestock premises are licensed and 51 elk premises are approved. The division also issued 144 permits to possess, propagate or domesticate pheasants, quail and chukar to individuals on behalf of 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 and the public. 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 2017, 78 permits were issued, involving 177 personnel who took the training.

Registration of livestock medicine has been transferred to the Animal Health Division. Approximately 1,679 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 Department 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. About 9,000 livestock premises have been registered.

LIVESTOCK SERVICES

Director

Shaun Quissell

Dairy/Poultry

David Boschma

Ken Quanbeck

State Meat Inspection

Andrea Grondahl, DVM

Heather Andersen

Joshua Epperly

Cody Kreft

Cami Metzger

Julie Nilges

Sherlynn Olson

Takara Reed

David Slack

Shawn Steffen

Whitney Vogel

Livestock Pollution Prevention

Jason Wirtz

Feed Registration

Dave Phillips

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

Dairy

The dairy inspection staff visited the state's 79 dairy farms an average of three times per 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 18 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 17th year of the Livestock Pollution Prevention Program that provides educational, technical and financial assistance to livestock producers for manure containment systems. The program has worked with about 160 livestock producers since its inception. An EPA 319 grant funds the program through October 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 115,000 calves.

Meat and Poultry Inspection

The State Meat and Poultry Inspection Program (SMPIP) currently regulates 104 processing plants. Fourteen plants are “state inspected” or official state establishments at which livestock is slaughtered and/or processed under regulated inspection. Three plants are operating as “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 been 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 4,000 commercial feeds and 8,700 pet foods are registered in the state. Labels are reviewed for all new products submitted for registration including 7,700 pet foods and 3,200 commercial feed products during the 2015-17 biennium. Also 150 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 and bovine spongiform encephalopathy inspections. Operating under a FDA grant, NDDA created a Food Animal Drug Residue Avoidance program. The program is in its third year and works cooperatively between NDDA and NDSU Extension.

Wildlife Services

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

A combination of state and federal funds were used to mitigate problems with coyotes, beavers and waterfowl. During the 2015-2017 biennium, WS removed 5,294 coyotes that had caused 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 beavers.

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 informational leaflets were distributed.

PESTICIDE & FERTILIZER

Program Manager

Eric Delzer

Pesticide

Jill Carlson

Kevin Coufal

Andrew Erickson

Darrell Haseleu

James Jeske

Tyler Kralicek

Brian Kramer

Jonathan Krei

Carla Ralston

Derek Woehl

Fertilizer

Brandy Kiefel

Environmental Science

Jerry Sauter

Project Safe Send

Jeremiah Lien

Administrative Assistant

Crystal Zabolotny

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 1,061 and 860 inspections in the federal fiscal year of 2016 and 2017 respectively. As a result of these inspections, NDDA issued 148 enforcement actions, including 91 warnings and 57 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 risk associated with pesticide misuse and to gain compliance with pesticide laws and rules. Staff reached approximately 5,900 people during public and private compliance assistance and outreach events in the federal fiscal years of 2016 and 2017.

Worker Protection Standard

The Worker Protection Standard (WPS) 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. The new WPS rules were implemented and changed for the calendar years 2017 and 2018 to improve safety and increase the level of education for employees working around pesticides. The new ruling is broken up into the two years to ensure time for adequate implementation. The NDDA is performing outreach for the changes to the applicable parties.

Pesticide Registration

The Pesticide Registration program registered 14,929 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 Ro-

denticide Act (FIFRA) authorize NDDA to ensure that pesticide uses are available to address significant pest problems. The department issued nine 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 32 SLN registrations during the biennium. Two Section 18 emergency exemptions were requested during the biennium.

Fertilizer Registration

A total of 6,412 fertilizer products, ranging from home and garden fertilizers to commercial agricultural fertilizers and soil conditioners, were registered in the biennium. North Dakota currently licenses 734 fertilizer distributors and 313 anhydrous ammonia facilities.

During the biennium, 508 fertilizer samples, including 405 ag fertilizers and 103 specialty fertilizer products, were tested to ensure that chemical composition matched label claims. NDDA collected tonnage fees on a total of 4,619,681 tons of fertilizer distributed in the state last biennium.

Fertilizer Enforcement

The Fertilizer Program inspects fertilizer facilities, anhydrous ammonia storage facilities, and anhydrous ammonia nurse tanks. The Department also enforces the federal chemical accident prevention provisions of the EPA's Risk Management Program (RMP) rule for all agricultural anhydrous ammonia facilities in the state. During 2015 and 2016, fertilizer staff conducted 738 total inspections which included 487 nurse tank inspections, 149 anhydrous ammonia storage facility inspections, and 98 RMP inspections. The Department also received more than 75 requests for voluntary compliance assistance inspections and we also provided outreach training to more than 1,000 people during the 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 12 Safe Send collection sites in both 2015 and 2016. More than 517,000 pounds of pesticides were collected. More than 500 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 102 pesticides and pesticide degradates.

As part of its obligations to EPA, NDDA assessed 12 pesticides in 2015 and 12 pesticides in 2016 for their potential to contaminate groundwater and surface water. As part of this assessment process, Chlorpyrifos was identified as a pesticide of concern in 2015 and 2-4-D and Terbufos were identified as pesticides of concern in 2016. 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

Scott Hochhalter

Plant Protection

Charles Elhard

Rachel Seifert-Spilde

Richard Weisz

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 2015-2017 biennium, 46 counties were reimbursed a total of \$951,628 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 2015-2017 biennium, \$253,457 was reimbursed to local weed boards to buy equipment, software and supplies to survey and map noxious weeds, conduct biocontrol activities and other activities.

2015-17 Noxious weed control funding

	General Funds	Special Funds
Landowner Assistance	\$71,638.71	\$879,988.97
Targeted Assistance	\$18,603.58	\$234,853.78

The U.S. Forest Service reimbursed NDDA \$83,526 during the 2015-2017 biennium. These funds enabled NDDA to survey, map and control noxious and invasive weeds through integrated weed management; rehabilitate 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.

Most counties have weed mapping capabilities using various GPS programs. 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 Invasive Species Management standards. From July

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*)

1, 2015, to the end of the 2015 growing season, 12 certified forage inspectors inspected 11,015.9 acres producing approximately 36,925 certified bales. During the 2016 growing season, six inspectors and four county representatives working under a Joint Powers Agreement inspected 17,091.89 acres in 17 counties producing 43,005 certified bales of weed seed-free forage, which consisted of alfalfa, mixed hay, and wheat, barley and rye straw. During the 2017 growing season, up to June 30, 2017, four forage inspectors inspected 226 acres in six counties producing 4,470 certified bales of alfalfa/grass mix, alfalfa, and roundup-ready alfalfa.

NDDA participates in the Lake Oahe and Lake 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 export significance. Surveys included Karnal bunt,

exotic wood borers and bark beetles, emerald ash borer, Japanese beetle, small grain insects and diseases, corn insects and disease, khapra beetle, 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, booth displays at trade shows and presentations. Emerald ash borer, gypsy moth 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-PPQ was maintained to allow issuance of federal phytosanitary certificates. More than 7,923 federal phytosanitary certificates were issued during the biennium involving 80 different applicants, many agronomic commodities, seedstocks and nursery stock. Certificates were issued to 83 different 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 – 152 certificates), cereal seed exported to Canada (four active compliance agreements – 58 certificates), cereal grain exported to Canada (45 active compliance agreements – 771 certificates), and grain corn exported to western states for European Corn Borer quarantine (67 compliance agreements – 1270 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 2016, there were 274 nursery licenses issued including 36 growers covering 1,050 acres of field grown nursery stock. In 2017, there were 272 nursery licenses issued including 37 growers covering 1,100 acres of field grown nursery stock. Permits were issued to 154 dealers to import and sell stem rust-resistant barberry.

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 265 locations in 2016-2017 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 2015, NDDA licensed 264 beekeepers and registered 587,430 colonies at 13,830 locations. In 2016 NDDA licensed 277 beekeepers and registered 601,441 colonies on 14,780 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 10 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 2015-17 biennium, the Honey Fund

was used for special promotions and research to benefit the honey industry.

Honey Promotion Fund	
<u>Revenue</u>	
Honey promotion fees	\$121,225.25
Interest	\$120.72
2013-15 carryover funds	<u>\$105,686.14</u>
Total revenue	\$227,032.11
<u>Expenditures</u>	
Operating expenses	\$660.41
Grant expenses	<u>39,100.01</u>
Total expenditures	\$39,760.42
Balance (6-30-17)	\$187,271.69

STATE FAIR

Fair Manager
Renaë Korslien

North Dakota law (NDCC 4.1-45-23) 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 2015-2017 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 2015-17

<u>Expenditures by Line Item</u>	Current Appropriation	Expenditures	Remaining	Percent Remaining
Salaries and Wages	\$12,615,765.00	\$11,803,520.41	\$812,244.59	6%
Operating Expenses	\$6,717,343.00	\$4,428,093.56	\$2,289,249.44	34%
Capital Assets	\$8,000.00	\$7,660.00	\$340.00	4%
Grants	\$10,545,912.00	\$7,361,941.51	\$3,183,970.49	30%
Board Of Animal Health	\$1,006,773.00	\$520,210.38	\$486,562.62	48%
Wildlife Services	\$1,401,257.00	\$1,401,257.00	\$0.00	0%
Pipeline Oversight Program	\$400,000.00	\$193,267.86	\$206,732.14	52%
Crop Harmonization Board	\$75,000.00	\$73,792.89	\$1,207.11	2%
Total Expenditures	\$32,770,050.00	\$25,789,743.61	\$6,980,306.39	21%
<u>Expenditures by Funding Source</u>				
General Fund	\$10,822,497.00	\$10,806,320.03	\$16,176.97	0%
Federal Funds	\$12,045,085.00	\$8,451,689.77	\$3,593,395.23	30%
Special Funds	\$9,902,468.00	\$6,531,733.81	\$3,370,734.19	34%
Total Expenditures by Source	\$32,770,050.00	\$25,789,743.61	\$6,980,306.39	21%

LEGISLATION

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

HB 1009 – Provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the agriculture commissioner; and to provide for transfers.

HB 1029 – Relating to the acceptance of federal funds; and to provide for a legislative management study of statutory and regulatory requirements placed on North Dakota state government agencies by United States government. NDDA was one of the agencies chosen for the study.

HB 1127 – Update to the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance.

HB 1131 – Adopted federal meat and poultry inspection regulations.

HB 1208 – Relating to livestock bills of sale; and to provide a penalty. Bill of sale must be provided within 15 days.

HB 1321 – Relating to weight limitations for vehicles on highways other than the interstate system. Allows movement of agricultural products from the field of harvest to the first point of storage or the first point of sale; and from the first point of storage to the first point of sale on the same over weight permit.

HB 1342 – Relating to beekeeping.

HB 1348 – Relating to the seizure of animals; requires the recommendation from a licensed veterinarian approved by the board of animal health.

HB 1433 – Relating to the direct sale of food by the producer to a consumer; and relating to the sale and production of animal-based products.

SB 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029 – Relating to revisions of agriculture laws. Repealed all chapters in Title 4 and moved the revisions to Title 4.1.

SB 2236 – Relating to the pipeline restoration and reclamation oversight program and records of program participants.

SB 2245 – Relating to listing parcels under the control of certain state entities for use as wetlands mitigation.

SB 2262 – Relating to fertilizer regulation by cities, counties, or townships.

SB 2313 – Relating to a wind energy restoration and reclamation oversight program.

SB 2330 – Relating to the definition of farm machinery; and to provide an effective date.