

**Agriculture Commissioner
Budget 602
House Bill Nos. 1009, 1249, 1349**

| | FTE Positions | General Fund | Other Funds | Total |
|---|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 2001-03 legislative appropriation | 55.50 | \$4,396,735 | \$7,068,293 | \$11,465,028 |
| 1999-2001 legislative appropriation | 55.50 | 4,479,272 | 4,596,442 | 9,075,714 |
| 2001-03 appropriation increase (decrease) to 1999-2001 appropriation | 0.00 | (\$82,537) | \$2,471,851 | \$2,389,314 |

NOTE: The 2001-03 appropriation amounts include \$42,948, \$25,339 of which is from the general fund, for the agency's share of the \$5,000,000 funding pool appropriated to the Office of Management and Budget for special market equity adjustments for classified employees.

Item Description

Pesticide registration fees - The 2001 Legislative Assembly provided for the establishment of user fees for collection of rinsate during the 2001-03 biennium. The fee is to be established at a level that will generate revenues to provide for the cost of the disposal associated with the rinsate collected during the biennium. Collections from this fee are to be deposited in the environment and rangeland protection fund.

Pesticide recycling - Section 10 of House Bill No. 1009 requires the Agriculture Commissioner, in consultation with the Project Safe Send Advisory Board, to research the potential of recycling selected products collected under Project Safe Send.

State meat inspection program - 1999 House Bill No. 1290 provided for the establishment of a state meat inspection program. The 2001 Legislative Assembly appropriated \$631,750, \$299,975 of which is from the general fund, for the meat inspection program.

Johne's disease and agriculture in the classroom - House Bill No. 1249 provided \$177,500 of funding from the Attorney General refund fund for controlling and defraying the cost of Johne's disease. House Bill No. 1349 provided \$75,000 of funding for developing and expanding agriculture in the classroom curricula.

Status/Result

During the 1999-2001 biennium, the majority of the rinsate received by Project Safe Send for disposal was primarily from a few entities. Project Safe Send collected a total of 39,283 pounds in calendar year 2000. The Agriculture Commissioner and the Project Safe Send Advisory Board instituted a \$1 per pound charge for participants that bring in more than 200 pounds of rinsate for disposal. The Department of Agriculture has collected 3,288 pounds of rinsate and \$3,288 in disposal fees through the first seven months of the 2001-03 biennium. The cost to dispose of rinsate is 91 cents per pound plus a mobilization fee, which is covered by the additional 9 cents per pound charge.

The Project Safe Send Advisory Board has discussed the possibility of recycling usable pesticides that are collected. The board is concerned with liability issues but plans to further examine the issue.

The Department of Agriculture has signed agreements to inspect four meat processing plants in the following locations:

- Grand Forks.
- Carrington.
- Langdon.
- Edgeley.

The department anticipates to have agreements in place to inspect a total of 10 meat processing plants by the end of the 2001-03 biennium.

As of February 2002, the Department of Agriculture has not received funding from the Attorney General's refund fund. The department has proceeded with the programs based on assurances from the Attorney General's office of receipt of the funds.