

**Agriculture Commissioner
Budget No. 602
House Bill Nos. 1009, 1050, Senate Bill No. 2018**

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2005-07 executive budget (bills as introduced)	61.00	\$4,885,958	\$9,368,014	\$14,253,972
2005-07 legislative appropriations	61.00	4,523,112	9,486,532	14,009,644
Legislative increase (decrease) to executive budget	0.00	(\$362,846)	\$118,518	(\$244,328)
Legislative increase (decrease) to 2003-05 appropriations	4.00	\$289,587	\$1,167,683	\$1,457,270

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET AND MAJOR FUNDING ITEMS

Salaries and Wages

The legislative action affecting the recommended appropriation for the Agriculture Commissioner's office is in accordance with legislative salary and fringe benefits guidelines as contained in House Bill No. 1050.

	Major Items FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
The legislative action:				
Added funding for state employee salary increases		\$15,099	\$11,628	\$26,727
Reduced funding recommended in the executive budget for state employee health insurance premiums from \$559.15 to \$553.95 per month per policy		(3,879)	(3,110)	(6,989)
Added funding from the environment and rangeland protection fund for saltcedar surveys and eradication			250,000	250,000
Added funding from the environment and rangeland protection fund for the Agriculture in the Classroom program. The total appropriation for the Agriculture in the Classroom program is \$316,000, of which \$216,000 is from gifts, grants, and donations			100,000	100,000
Decreased funding from the environment and rangeland protection fund for Project Safe Send. The total funding for Project Safe Send is \$580,371 from the environment and rangeland protection fund.			(20,000)	(20,000)
Decreased funding for the Pride of Dakota program. The executive recommendation increased funding for Pride of Dakota programs based on the executive recommendation that funds generated from Pride of Dakota events be deposited in the general fund rather than a separate events fund. The Legislative Assembly chose to continue to deposit the events revenue in a special fund. The total appropriation for the Pride of Dakota		(182,403)		(182,403)

program is \$139,594 from the general fund. The 2003-05 appropriation was \$180,948, of which \$119,248 was from the general fund and \$61,700 was from other funds.

Added \$130,000 of funding from the game and fish fund, contingent on federal funds not being available for North Dakota Wildlife Services. If the federal funding for the cooperative wildlife damage management program for North Dakota Wildlife Services for federal fiscal year 2006 is less than \$400,000, then \$65,000 of game and fish funds are appropriated for wildlife services programs. If the federal funding for the cooperative wildlife damage management program for North Dakota Wildlife Services for federal fiscal year 2007 is less than \$400,000, then an additional \$65,000 of game and fish funds are appropriated for wildlife services programs.

130,000 130,000

Removed general fund spending authority related to 2 FTE positions for the Board of Animal Health--1 FTE veterinarian and 1 FTE program specialist--to assist with federal animal health grant programs. The FTE positions were not removed.

(191,663) (191,663)

Removed federal funds for costs associated with animal identification in Senate Bill No. 2018 that included a section amending the Agriculture Commissioner's appropriations bill

(150,000) (150,000)

Removed appropriation authority included in the executive recommendation for the Crop Harmonization Board, which is not needed because of continuing appropriation authority

(200,000) (200,000)

	0.00	(\$362,846)	\$118,518	(\$244,328)
Total				

FTE Changes

The Legislative Assembly did not change the executive recommendation providing for 61 FTE positions, an increase of 4 FTE positions from the 2003-05 biennium. The Legislative Assembly did not change the executive recommendation to add 1 FTE veterinarian position and 1 FTE program specialist position for the Board of Animal Health, 1 FTE meat inspector position, and 1 FTE agriculture programs specialist position for exotic plant pest biosecurity programs.

Other Sections in Bill

Environment and rangeland protection fund - Section 4 authorizes \$2,855,077 from the environment and rangeland protection fund for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the various Agriculture Department programs.

Anhydrous ammonia storage inspection fund - Section 5 authorizes \$61,410 from the anhydrous ammonia storage inspection fund for the purpose of defraying the expenses of regulating anhydrous ammonia storage facilities.

Game and fish fund - Section 6 authorizes \$700,000 from the game and fish fund to the Agriculture Department for wildlife services (\$550,000) and the Board of Animal Health (\$150,000). The Legislative Assembly also provided in Section 13, a contingent appropriation of \$130,000 from the game and fish fund for wildlife services. If the federal funding for the cooperative wildlife damage management program for North Dakota Wildlife Services for federal fiscal year 2006 is less

than \$400,000, then \$65,000 of the appropriation is available for wildlife services programs and if the same federal funding is less than \$400,000 for federal fiscal year 2007, an additional \$65,000 of the appropriation is available for wildlife services programs.

Minor use pesticide fund - Section 7 provides for \$200,000 to be transferred from the environment and rangeland protection fund to the minor use pesticide fund during the 2005-07 biennium.

Soil conservation district supervisors' compensation - Section 9 increases the maximum compensation from \$25 to \$62.50 for supervisors of soil conservation districts for attending meetings or events related to their duties.

Agriculture in the Classroom Council - Sections 10 and 11 make statutory changes relating to the duties and responsibilities of the Agriculture in the Classroom Council.

Pesticide registration fees - Section 12 delays the sunset clause on the \$350 pesticide product registration fee from June 30, 2005, to June 30, 2007. The additional amount collected, estimated to be \$450,000 for the 2005-07 biennium, will be deposited in the environment and rangeland protection fund. The pesticide product registration fee will revert to \$300 on July 1, 2007.

Study of meat inspection license fees - Section 14 provides for a Legislative Council study of the feasibility and desirability of implementing a license fee for businesses receiving state meat inspection program services and whether the fee would impact the number of businesses that would use the federal meat inspection service rather than the state service.

Related Legislation

Salary of Agriculture Commissioner - Section 10 of House Bill No. 1015 provides statutory changes to North Dakota Century Code Section 4-01-21, relating to the salary of the Agriculture Commissioner. The Legislative Assembly authorized 2005-07 biennium salary increases of 4 percent, effective July 1, 2005, and 4 percent, effective July 1, 2006, for elected officials. The Agriculture Commissioner's salary is to be increased from the current level of \$69,874 to \$72,669, effective July 1, 2005, and \$75,576, effective July 1, 2006.

Commercial feed inspections - House Bill No. 1093 increases late registration fees for feed retailers and fees for late tonnage reports and establishes a minimum tonnage fee of \$10.

Dairy farm reinspection fee - Senate Bill No. 2114 adds a reinspection fee of \$75 for each farm facility inspection conducted beyond the normal inspections for Grade A and manufacturing grade facilities. Such reinspections result from adverse actions such as a farm permit suspension, the downgrade from Grade A to manufacturing grade, or unsanitary conditions that require correction within a specified period of time.