

COMMISSIONER  
DOUG GOEHRING



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**NORTH DAKOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

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**Testimony of John Schneider  
Business, Marketing, and Information Division Director  
House Agriculture  
Room 327C  
January 16, 2025**

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Chairman Beltz and members of the House Agriculture Committee, I am John Schneider, Business, Marketing, and Information Division director here on behalf of Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. I am here today in support of HB 1143, which provides a 10 million dollar appropriation for a grant program for food distribution facilities.

During the last biennium, Commissioner administered two grant programs from state and federal funds. Statewide Food distribution program purchased over \$380,000 worth of food through 12 local vendors and was distributed to 164 food pantry sites. The Local foods purchase cooperative agreement program sourced products from 28 local vendors and was distributed to 213 local food pantries in 50 counties to 145,000 plus individuals.

Chairman Beltz and committee members, thank you for your time. I urge a do pass on HB 1143. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.



Agriculture Commissioner  
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## STATEWIDE FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

The State Food Distribution Program is a program using \$1 million from the general fund for a food distribution grant program to be used for the purchase of food and equipment and any distribution costs associated with assisting local food banks to provide food to individuals in the state. It was funded through the 68th Legislative Session, SB 2009 and expires June 30, 2025.

### Funding may be used for:

- Purchase of food
  - Competitively priced, good quality food products
- Purchase of equipment
  - To extend the life of perishable foods
    - Refrigerators
    - Coolers
    - Freezers
    - Vacuum sealers
  - Equipment may also be purchased in conjunction with other North Dakota food banks
  - Equipment associated with the transportation of food
- Distribution costs
  - Cardboard boxes
  - Bags and packaging materials

### Distribution through 9/30/24:

- Purchased \$380,577.44 worth of food utilizing 12 local vendors
- Food distributed to 164 food pantry sites

### More information:

For more information, call John Schneider at 701-319-6958 or email [jfschneider@nd.gov](mailto:jfschneider@nd.gov).



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## LOCAL FOOD PURCHASE ASSISTANCE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT PROGRAMS

The purpose of the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program was to maintain and improve food and agricultural supply chain resiliency. It was a way to support local and socially disadvantaged farmers and producers, and provide that food to underserved communities in North Dakota.

### Goals

The program had three main goals:

1. Provide an opportunity for states and tribal governments to strengthen their local and regional food system.
2. Help to support local and socially disadvantaged farmers/producers through building and expanding economic opportunities.
3. Establish and broaden partnerships with farmers/producers and the food distribution community, and local food networks, including non-profits to ensure distribution of fresh and nutritious foods in rural, remote, or underserved communities.

### Programs / Results

Two agreements were signed with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service:

1. Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA) - \$420,000
2. Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program Plus (LFPA+) - \$678,228

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture partnered with the Great Plains Food Bank to procure and distribute the food to communities for both agreements. Food, including meat and produce, was sourced from 28 local producers and vendors and was distributed to 213 locations in 50 counties.

### More information:

For more information, call John Schneider at 701-319-6958 or email [jfschneider@nd.gov](mailto:jfschneider@nd.gov).