

**Agriculture Commissioner
Budget 602
Senate Bill Nos. 2009, 2015, 2319**

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2003-05 legislative appropriation	57.00	\$4,233,525	\$8,318,849	\$12,552,374
2001-03 legislative appropriation	<u>55.50</u>	<u>4,396,735</u>	<u>7,518,293</u>	<u>11,915,028</u>
2003-05 appropriation increase (decrease) to 2001-03 appropriation	1.50	(\$163,210)	\$800,556	\$637,346

Item Description

Saltcedar control and eradication - The 2003 Legislative Assembly approved Senate Bill No. 2319, which appropriated \$250,000 from the environment and rangeland protection fund to the Department of Agriculture for controlling and eradicating saltcedar.

Agriculture in the classroom - Sections 8, 9, and 12 of Senate Bill No. 2009, provides for the agriculture in the classroom program to be contracted with individuals and organizations that conduct an agriculture in the classroom program. The total appropriation for the agriculture in the classroom program is \$216,000--\$50,000 from the environment and rangeland protection fund, \$5,000 of carryover funds from the Attorney General refund fund, \$45,000 from the general fund, and \$116,000 of special funds spending authority from gifts, grants, and donations. The Department of Agriculture was directed to provide a minimum of \$100,000 in contracts for the agriculture in the classroom program.

Pesticide disposal project - The 2003 Legislative Assembly continued the agricultural pesticide and pesticide disposal program (Safe Send) through July 31, 2007. The Legislative Assembly appropriated a total of \$308,870 from the environment and rangeland protection fund for Safe Send for the 2003-05 biennium.

Status/Result

The Department of Agriculture has implemented an aggressive plan to map and eradicate saltcedar in North Dakota. Funds provided have been used to cost share with local weed boards to hire summer temporary employees and to purchase three 4-wheel all-terrain vehicles that are available for use by county weed boards.

The Department of Agriculture is currently in the process of extending contract offers for the agriculture in the classroom program. Contracts totaling approximately \$47,500 have been issued as of April 1, 2004. The Department of Agriculture anticipates issuing contracts for at least \$100,000 during the biennium.

The Department of Agriculture conducted the Safe Send program during the first year of the 2003-05 biennium. The Department of Agriculture has spent \$214,735 on the Safe Send program as of March 1, 2004. The Emergency Commission and Budget Section approved, in April 2004, the department's request to accept \$150,190 of federal funds from the Environmental Protection Agency for Safe Send. The Department of Agriculture plans to use the additional funds to conduct the program during the second year of the biennium.