Seed Department
Budget 616
Senate Bill No. 2018

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
1999-2001 legislative appropriation	33.00		$5,317,244	$5,317,244
1997-99 legislative appropriation	35.50		5,509,104	5,509,104
1999-2001 appropriation increase (decrease) to 1997-99 appropriation	(2.50)	$0	($191,860)	($191,860)

NOTE: The 1999-2001 appropriation amounts include $2,411 of special funds for the agency's share of the $1.4 million funding pool appropriated to the Office of Management and Budget for assisting agencies in providing the $35 per month minimum salary increases in July 1999 and July 2000.

Item Description	Status/Result
Potato grade inspection contracts with Simplot and AVIKO.	Due to Simplot and AVIKO contracting with a private company rather than the Seed Department for potato grade inspections, Seed Department revenues are estimated to be $800,000 less than originally projected for the biennium. The Seed Department has closed its Grand Forks office and released the three FTE positions that were located there.
Information technology project.	In January 1999 the Seed Department began an information technology project to replace its DOS-based computer software with Windows-based software. The department contracted with Martinson Vision Consulting and Magenic to design and develop the project for an estimated cost of $300,000. When the contractors provided a revised cost estimate of $800,000 to complete the project, the department discontinued the project after spending $240,935.
	The Seed Department has now been working with the Information Technology Department to provide project management and assistance. The project is planned to be completed in four phases--Phase 1 and Phase 2 during the 1999-2001 biennium at an estimated cost of $181,575. The department plans to use funding available from its $200,000 contingency line item for these costs. Phase 3 and Phase 4 are anticipated to be completed during the 2001-03 biennium, and Phase 3 is estimated to cost $25,500. Specific cost estimates are not yet available for Phase 4.