Northern Crops Institute
Budget No. 638
House Bill No. 1020

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2023-25 legislative appropriation	18.15	$2,110,256	$7,440,445	$9,550,701[1]
2021-23 legislative appropriation	13.55	1,987,142	1,922,618	3,909,760
2023-25 appropriation increase (decrease) to 2021-23 appropriation	4.60	$123,114	$5,517,827	$5,640,941

[1]This amount does not include any transfers of appropriation authority from the Office of Management and Budget funding pools for targeted market equity adjustments, retirement contribution increases, or new and vacant FTE positions.

Item Description	Status/Result
Full-time equivalent changes - The Legislative Assembly authorized 18.15 FTE positions for the Northern Crops Institute for the 2023-25 biennium, an increase of 4.60 FTE positions from the 2021-23 biennium. The 4.60 FTE positions were added pursuant to Section 8 of Senate Bill No. 2020 (2021), which authorized the State Board of Higher Education to adjust FTE positions at entities under its control. Section 10 of House Bill No. 1020 continues the authorization of the board to adjust positions at entities under its control during the 2023-25 biennium.	In February 2024, the former Northern Crops Institute director resigned, and interim co-directors were hired. In March 2024, the Northern Crops Institute instituted a reduction in force which resulted in 5 FTE positions and seven contract positions being removed from the agency. The reduction in force was due to financial challenges resulting from the agency's increasing expenses exceeding revenues.
Targeted market equity - The Legislative Assembly appropriated $82.5 million, of which $45.1 million is from the general fund, to the Office of Management and Budget for a targeted market equity pool to be distributed to state agencies.	The Northern Crops Institute received $120,600, including $74,000 from the general fund and $46,600 from special funds, for targeted market equity increases. Equity increases were provided to nine employees.
New and vacant FTE funding pool - The Legislative Assembly reduced the 2023-25 biennium appropriation authority for the Northern Crops Institute by $119,317, including $58,637 from the general fund and $60,680 from other funds, related to estimated vacant position savings for the new and vacant FTE funding pool.	Through January 2024, the Northern Crops Institute has not received any funding from the new and vacant FTE funding pool. The Northern Crops Institute did not have any vacancies or estimated vacant FTE position savings during the first 7 months of the 2023-25 biennium.
Transfer authority - In Section 9 of House Bill No. 1020, the Legislative Assembly authorized the Director of the Main Research Center, with approval from the State Board of Agricultural Research and Education, and appropriate branch research center directors, to transfer appropriation authority within the Extension Service, Northern Crops Institute, branch research centers, and Main Research Center.	To date there have been no transfers of appropriation authority within the Extension Service, Northern Crops Institute, branch research centers, and Main Research Center, and the agency does not anticipate making any transfers during the remainder of the 2023-25 biennium.
Feed production center upgrade and pellet mill - In Section 6 of House Bill No. 1020, the Legislative Assembly appropriated $3.9 million of one-time funding from the strategic investment and improvements fund for the Northern Crops Institute feed production center facility upgrade and pellet mill.	The Northern Crops Institute plans to begin the project in the summer of 2024 and anticipates it will be completed in the winter of 2024.