



Illinois Department of Agriculture

2002 Annual Report

December 2002

To: Governor George H. Ryan, Members of the General Assembly, and Citizens of the State of Illinois

From: Staff of the Illinois Department of Agriculture

We are pleased to present the Illinois Department of Agriculture annual report, which provides a summary of the Department's regulatory responsibilities, programs, and activities for the fiscal year 2002.

Illinois is a premiere agricultural state, ranking among the top five states in the nation in agricultural output. We are blessed with agricultural resources and are fortunate to be the center of US corn and soybean production and processing.

Our 76,000 farms cover nearly 80% of our total land area. In any given year, Illinois farmers plant more than 11 million acres of corn and 10.4 million acres of soybeans. On a national scale, Illinois farmers produce about 17% of the corn and soybeans and about 7% of the pigs.

Agricultural exports play an important role in the Illinois economy. In 2000, Illinois' \$3 billion in exports resulted in the state ranking sixth in terms of agricultural exports. Exports account for about 42 percent of an Illinois farmer's gross cash receipts and account for about 43,000 jobs – both on the farm and off the farm.

Illinois is a food and agriculture powerhouse. However, the transition to a global economy has significantly changed the landscape of the state's largest industry. As a result, farmers and agribusinesses are looking for ways to capture a greater portion of the value of Illinois products. The Department continues to work to provide a climate that allows farmers to enter into new ventures, cooperate with other farmers and target specific markets with their products.

IDOA Programs Encourage Youth to Consider Agriculture Careers

On September 28, 2001 IDOA employees, along with staff from Central Management Services, Employment Security, Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Agency, the Illinois Association of Minorities in Government, and others visited the Chicago High School for Agricultural Science to expose kids to career opportunities in Agriculture. Senator Emil Jones (second from right) was in attendance to give encouragement to high school students investigating agriculture related careers.



Mission Statement:

The Illinois Department of Agriculture will be an advocate for Illinois' agricultural industry and provide the necessary regulatory functions to benefit consumers, agricultural industry, and our natural resources. The agency will strive to promote agri-business in Illinois and throughout the world.

Vision Statement:

The Illinois Department of Agriculture will promote and regulate agriculture in a manner that encourages farming and agribusiness while protecting Illinois' consumers and natural resources.

- **Agricultural Products Inspection** – Test commercial feed, seed and fertilizer products to ensure they meet advertised quality and quantity specifications. Examine seed samples for purity, noxious weed content, germination and suitability for distribution. Evaluate the nutritional content of livestock feed. Certify products for export to meet state and federal quality standards. Inspect anhydrous ammonia pressure vessels, facilities and systems for safety. Review labels of feed, fertilizer, seed and soil conditioners for accuracy and truth in labeling. Promote fertilizer research through the Fertilizer Research and Education Council.
- **Animal Health** – Work to prevent and eradicate disease in swine, cattle, poultry, horses, and other animals in Illinois. Regulate livestock auction markets and dealers, animal transportation and slaughter livestock buyers.
- **Animal Welfare** – Enforce regulations concerning animal care and control, animal abuse prevention and other illegal activities, disposal of dead animals and inedible animal products. License and inspect animal dealers, pet shops, kennels, catteries, shelters, animal control facilities, and guard dog services.
- **County Fairs, Horse Racing, State Fair and DuQuoin Fair** – Provide attractive and entertaining annual fairs that promote family fun and agriculture awareness, support local business, and optimize fairgrounds facilities. Provide funding and consistent program administration for the county fair organizers. Provide funding, certification and racing program opportunities that promote an Illinois-bred industry. Promote and contract for the staging of special events to maximize use of the fairgrounds.
- **Environmental Programs** – Work toward controlling plant pests and disease, including noxious weed control and invasive species. Register pesticides, license applicators, investigate misuse complaints, oversee a pesticide container-recycling program. Operate a pesticide laboratory to test groundwater, soil and plant samples for pesticide residues and to ensure accurate labeling of pesticides. Enforce proper storage, containment and disposal of pesticides and fertilizers. Oversee the Livestock Management Facilities Act, which regulates setback distances, design standards for waste facilities, waste management plans and livestock manager certification.
- **Diagnostic Laboratories** - Provide analytical support for animal disease eradication programs by examining blood and tissue samples at two locations in Illinois. Conduct regulatory testing of animals for competition or export, test meat and poultry samples as part of the Department's inspection programs and test grain to ensure it meets import requirements for foreign markets. Evaluate the nutritional value of animal feed, water and soil samples to ensure they are free from harmful substances.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture administers a variety of programs important to Illinois, which ensure protection of producers, consumers and natural resources. The Department's staff is comprised of dedicated professionals, which allows the Agency to carry out its statutory mandates. The following is a synopsis of activities performed by the Department:

Food Safety

- BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) testing – all feed manufacturers in Illinois were inspected and are in compliance with federal regulations, protecting consumer confidence of the food supply.
- The Department provided slaughter and/or processing inspection for 272 state-licensed establishments, with requirements that equal or exceed federal standards.
- Eliminated the law that allows eggs to be repackaged, resulting in regulations permitting only fresh eggs to be marketed to consumers.

Homeland Security

- Laboratory Upgrades — The Department began construction on laboratory upgrades at Galesburg to bring the lab to a Biosecurity Level e (BL-3) status, which will allow safe handling of highly infectious agents such as anthrax or foot and mouth disease.
- The Department's laboratories – Centralia and Galesburg – became fully accredited by the American Association of Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories.
- Alkaline digesters – Homeland Defense and federal bio-terrorism money supported the purchase of alkaline digesters for the Galesburg and Centralia labs. Digesters render disease-causing agents noninfectious and produce sterile effluent, offering an alternative to incineration for carcass disposal.

Emergency Preparedness

- The Bureau of Animal Health organized the Central States Animal Emergency Coordinating Council to coordinate communication and livestock tracking within a seven-state region in the event of a foreign animal disease outbreak. The Council is comprised of animal health and emergency officials from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina and Wisconsin.
- The Department became a participating member of the Illinois Emergency Operations Council providing advice and consultation on a variety of emergencies impacting the State of Illinois. It's the first time the Department of Agriculture has had a seat at the table.



Animal Cruelty

- The Department partnered with the Association for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to conduct numerous training sessions for state and local law enforcement officers across the state. The workshops taught law enforcement officials key information on cock and dog fighting, animal hoarding, and other elements of the Humane Care for Animals Act.

Pesticide container recycling efforts

- The Department joined the agrichemical industry to develop the first recycling project in Illinois covering pesticide mini-bulk containers, recycling nearly 400 plastic containers ranging in size from 60 to 250 gallons.
- The Department, in conjunction with the Department of Public Health, conducted two agricultural/structural pesticide clean sweep program collections, collecting more than 10,000 pounds of unwanted/unneeded/unusable pesticide products.

- The Department developed and adopted rules requiring the installation of secondary containment for the storage of agrichemical products on farms, complementing the current regulations requiring containment at commercial and non-commercial agrichemical facilities.



Invasive Species

- The Department continued to monitor Asian Long Horned Beetle quarantine areas, surveying nearly 14,000 trees to detect the presence of the beetle.
- The Department conducted 12 public informational meetings regarding the Gypsy Moth spray and treatment projects.

Illinois Agriculture and Product Promotion Efforts

- The Department organized Illinois food and agribusiness companies' participation in 15 international trade shows and buyers missions in six countries, two domestic trade shows, and seven industry tours with participants from 11 countries.
- The Department also participated in 16 regional state cooperator activities, and 12 alternative and specialty crop projects.
- Initiated three new marketing projects.
- Assisted more than 210 individual companies and 85 agricultural organizations with marketing and promotion activities.
- Assisted in the generation of more than \$60 million in sales of Illinois food and agricultural products.

AgriFIRST

- Implemented AgriFIRST, the Department's economic development program designed to assist with value-added agricultural endeavors to help producers meet the changing structure of agriculture.
- Awarded \$1.455 million in AgriFIRST grants to 29 projects covering 10 agricultural sectors.

Specialty Crops

- Received \$900,000 in federal funds to assist specialty growers in Illinois, which funded 14 major projects impacting specialty growers.

Producer Protection

- Recovered over \$1 million and paid more than \$9 million in claims as a result of the failure of Ty-Walk Liquid Sales, Inc., a diversified grain elevator business with interests in agricultural fertilizer/chemicals, seeds, farming and residential development.
- Convened a task force to evaluate changes to the Illinois Grain Code to address a changing agriculture infrastructure.
- Worked across industry lines to study the calibrations of all commercially-used grain moisture measuring devices for corn for accuracy.
- Participated with the American society of Testing and Materials in the development of equipment that measures back fat, depth, and loin eye muscle depth of pork.

Land and Water Resources

- Opened Watershed Park during the 2002 Illinois State Fair. An interactive exhibit on the Illinois State Fairgrounds, Watershed Park is designed to raise awareness about protection of our state's water resources.



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