



# Illinois Department of Agriculture

## 2004

# Annual Report



**Mission:** To protect, preserve and promote Illinois agriculture and the health and safety thereof to the public.

**Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor · Chuck Hartke, Director**

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# Introduction

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Illinois' food and agricultural industry continues to change at an increasingly fast pace. Advances in technology have allowed the state and the nation to provide our international trading partners some of the safest food and agricultural products in the world.

Additionally, Illinois' access to transportation infrastructure (water, rail, road) and distribution systems create a unique blend of attributes that allow Illinois farmers a unique position in agriculture as they not only become state suppliers, but also global suppliers of quality, safe food and agricultural products.

The numbers of international buyers that visit the state annually in search of new suppliers support the state's tradition of providing safe and wholesome food and agricultural products. IDOA works with several other state and national agricultural industry organizations to bring buyers to Illinois. In fiscal year 2004, IDOA's marketing activities generated \$66.9 million sales for Illinois food and agribusiness companies. Each dollar spent on promotion generated \$63 in sales – more than triple the industry's standard return on investment of \$20 for every dollar of expenses. Marketing activities help to increase demand for the state's agricultural products and aid in job creation.

2004 was a challenging year for the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA). IDOA worked to fulfill the Governor's dictum to streamline operations, improve operating efficiency and implement sound business practices. As opposed to past practices, IDOA has become accountable for the general functions set forth in the agency's mission and has met the guidelines under state law. The IDOA's services and programs continue to protect Illinois's rural citizens, preserve the state's natural resources, market Illinois food and agricultural products and identify new market opportunities that will not only keep rural economies sustainable, but will also allow them to grow, prosper and attract new citizens wanting to ensure a strong rural economy to enhance the strength of the State. This report will detail some of the ways in which Illinois' citizens are benefiting from the Department of Agriculture's programs and services and highlight the Department's achievements in 2004.

# Illinois Agricultural Highlights

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## General Information

Agriculture continues to be an essential part of not only Illinois' social culture, but also Illinois' economy. The state's abundant natural resources, fertile soil and access to transportation infrastructure position Illinois as a global supplier of food and agricultural products.

## "Value Added" Information

The food and agricultural manufacturing and processing industry, which includes meat packing, corn and soybean processing, dairy manufacturing, vegetable processing, feed milling and other related industries is a large component of Illinois' economy. In 2001, (the most recent year for which data is available) Illinois ranked third in food processing/manufacturing behind California and Texas.

## Farms & Land Values

In 2004, Illinois had 73,000 farms containing 27.5M acres of land with the average farm size being 377 acres. The average per acre value of real estate as of January 1, 2004, was \$2,610 per acre compared to \$2,430 per acre for the same time the previous year.

## Commodity Production

Illinois ranked second in corn production and first in soybean production in 2003 and 2004. Illinois produced 499,950,000 bushels of soybeans, producing yields of 50.5 bushels an acre. Corn yielded 180-bushels per acre, an increase of 16-bushels over the 2003 record of 164-bushels per acre.

In 2003, Illinois ranked fourth among all states in production of pork producing 1.83 billion pounds. The state's cattle and calf production totaled 583.8 million pounds in 2003, which was a reduction of two percent from 2002 figures. The state ranked 19<sup>th</sup> in the production of cattle and calves.

## Cash Receipts

Total cash receipts from farm marketing in 2003 totaled \$8.29 billion – 7% above 2002 figures. Illinois ranked 7<sup>th</sup> among all states in total cash receipts in 2003. Crop cash receipts in 2003 totaled \$6.49 billion, a 5 percent increase from 2002. Livestock and livestock products cash receipts in Illinois totaled \$1.8 billion a 16 percent increase over 2002 figures, placing Illinois 22<sup>nd</sup> among all states in total livestock and livestock products cash receipts in 2003.

*Source: IL Agricultural Statistics 2004*

# 2004 IL Department of Agriculture Accomplishments

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- IDOA successfully remodeled a portion of one of the agency's labs to create a Biosecurity Level 3 Laboratory. The laboratory was remodeled to create a facility where highly pathogenic microorganisms could be identified. This state-of-the-art facility provides protection to lab employees and to Illinois consumers by filtering the air in and out of the facility and providing safe "islands" within the laboratory where microorganisms can be identified.
- The Department has trained approximately 200 first responders who will serve as the first line of defense employed during a potential disaster. IDOA developed a special conference providing training to veterinarians, regulatory professionals, industry representatives and producer group representatives. The Department also developed a county Emergency Animal Disease/Animals in Disaster Response Plan. The template has been distributed to Illinois counties.
- IDOA participated in the Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture sponsored by the State of Iowa. The group is developing a risk communication plan and an emergency response plan. The partnership is being funded with a \$2 million Homeland Security grant.
- In an effort to safeguard Illinois' livestock population and to quickly identify livestock assets in the state in the case of a disaster, the Department has created a livestock premise registration system as part of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). Illinois was one of three states to pilot a national on-line system to establish livestock premise ID's. More than 400 premises have been registered in Illinois to date.
- In an effort to better track animals, the Department of Agriculture has instituted a new program requiring all livestock entering Illinois to obtain a permit number from the agency. This will aid in tracing animals within 48 hours in the event of an animal disease outbreak.
- Director of the Centralia Animal Disease Laboratory, Dr. Gene Niles, achieved Diplomat status in the American Board of Veterinary Toxicology.
- BSE Surveillance: In an effort to ensure the safety of Illinois' food system, IDOA is assisting the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with increased inspections and the Department has also increased the number of ruminant protein tests performed on feed samples. The number of feed samples collected throughout the State has increased from 100 in 2003 to 300 in 2004. The Department has also doubled inspections at 17-high risk (containing ruminant protein) feed facilities from once a year to twice a year and also now inspects the 14 renderers in Illinois four times a year instead of twice a year. Only

37 of Illinois' 387 feed mills handle ruminant protein. IDOA inspectors continue to be aware of new BSE training by performing BSE inspections for the FDA in addition to state BSE inspections. IDOA has hired ten meat inspectors in an effort to comply with additional inspection needs and federal regulations. Additionally, three consumer safety officer positions for veterinarians are also being hired.

- Soybean Rust: IDOA has coordinated the development of the Illinois Soybean Rust Program. Late last fall, soybean rust was confirmed in Southern states. It is now more important than ever for IDOA to have a statewide action plan to protect Illinois from this disease. Other states are using Illinois' program as a model. The Illinois Soybean Rust Program is a cooperative effort between government, university and private organizations.

In addition, the Department submitted one request to the U.S. EPA for the registration of ten products consisting of seven active ingredients for use against Soybean Rust. The U.S. EPA has now approved six of the requested products and is currently considering the remaining four. Soybean Rust has been found in several southern states, the closest at this time being Arkansas. The registration of these products will expand the arsenal of products available to Illinois soybean producers to combat this pest in the 2005 growing season if needed.

- Enhanced the "Johnes Disease Certification Program" for veterinarians.
- An Emerald Ash Borer readiness plan was developed in cooperation with various state, federal, and local government groups as well as several non-governmental organizations detailing proactive steps that can be taken to keep the Emerald Ash Borer from invading Illinois as well as the detection and response of the state to the detection of an infestation of the pest in Illinois.
- IDOA has also contracted with the USDA to conduct tests for the CWD (Chronic Wasting Disease)/Scrapie program. IDOA has performed 3,600 scrapie tests this year. IDOA tests deer specimens for CWD as well and tested more than 6,000 samples in 2004.
- The Bureau of Weights and Measures initiated a centralized inspection program for Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) meters. Through an agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), appointments for LPG inspections were scheduled at IDOT maintenance facilities. The centralized inspection program increased inspectors' productivity by eliminating time required to travel to the businesses.
- The egg inspection program was transferred to the Division of Food Safety and Animal Protection. The transfer will allow for better communication and coordination between the Bureau of Meat and Poultry compliance officers and the Egg Program inspectors for the inspection of poultry and eggs.

- There are 263 meatpacking plants and 597 brokers licensed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture. Bureau of Meat and Poultry inspectors performed 207,705 tasks, took 108 enforcement actions and inspected 814,383 head of livestock and 58.4 million pounds of meat and poultry products. In addition, the Department is now working to license food banks and inspecting more than 50 school kitchens.
- Opened a genetic seed testing lab. This lab will let farmer's know whether their seeds contain genetically modified organisms (GMO) or not. As the number of genetic traits introduced by the seed industry increases, it is important for producers and end users to know the traits of the seeds they plant or buy.
- IDOA worked with law enforcement organizations throughout the state to train officers and staff on Humane Treatment of Animals' laws. The entire Joliet police force of 280 officers was trained this past year.
- Through USDA-Cooperative Agreements, the Illinois Department of Agriculture has been able to access almost \$750,000 in federal funds.
- The Department has increased the revenue generating potential at both the DuQuoin and Illinois State Fairgrounds. DuQuoin has increased non-fair revenue by 133 percent in 2004 and held 86 events in 2004. DuQuoin has also completed construction of a new building, which already has been scheduled to hold 18 events between October 2004 and April 1, 2005.
- The agency has also secured a contract with the US Environmental Protection Agency to begin performing Risk Management Practices audits at anhydrous ammonia facilities. This contract will generate \$136,400 in revenue for the Bureau of Ag Products Inspection over the next two years.
- Various tests conducted by IDOA's animal disease laboratories -- including West Nile Virus testing for the Illinois Department of Public Health and Chronic Wasting Disease testing of deer for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources -- have helped to generate more than \$84,000 in new revenue in the last year.
- The Illinois State Fair improved its finances by reducing costs and increasing revenue.
- Won the bid for 2006 & 2007 National High School Rodeo.
- Helped generate and contributed more than \$100,000 to Charity at the Illinois State Fair (ABC and Children's Miracle Network).
- Increased corporate sponsorship dollars by more than 25 percent.
- Increased non-fair revenue by more than \$75,000 for 2004.

- Illinois Director of Agriculture Chuck Hartke was named the co-chair of the National Association of State Department's of Agriculture (NASDA) Warehousing Task Force. Director Hartke is working to prevent the USDA from establishing a federal warehousing act. Given the fact that Illinois' existing laws are used as a model around the nation, the agency is concerned that passage of federal regulations could preempt state law and Illinois farmers would be at a greater risk.
- Changes to the following Acts to enable IDOA to provide better response and more closely safeguard the industry, protect animals and consumers.
  - The Dead Animal Disposal Act was changed to allow for composting of sheep, goats and cattle. This practice is done in other states and was a change that was needed in Illinois.
  - Regulations were adopted for the Humane Care for Animal Act. The changes allowed for the certification of law enforcement personnel to become humane investigators. Provisions were also made to make humane investigators more accountable for their actions and made the removal of humane investigators from their positions more feasible.
  - Regulations were adopted to the Animal Disease Act (SB3111) as a result of the Monkeypox outbreak in 2003 to address permitting and record keeping of exotic animals brought into Illinois and sold throughout the state. The addition to the act will aid IDOA in tracing the sale of animals.
- IDOA is using enhanced technological capabilities to more efficiently manage animal welfare cases. Investigators now utilize digital cameras to document investigation findings.
- The Bureau of Marketing and Promotion created a buy Illinois Products website. To date, more than 56 companies are advertising their products via the site.
- The Department has enhanced existing laboratory capabilities by obtaining equipment for real-time polymerase chain-reaction (PCR) tests, which identify previously undetected levels of DNA and RNA from bacteria and viruses in diagnostic specimens.
- In FY04, IDOA provided nearly \$6.2M for the 98 Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Offices. The funds aid the SWCD offices in helping to deliver Department programs that seek to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation and protect water quality. For the first time in history the Director of the Department of Agriculture participated in regional SWCD meetings. The purpose was to address budgetary and programmatic issues affecting the SWCD's. This tour has been well received and IDOA envisions this will become an annual "tour" to help effectively communicate the Governor's message and policies to SWCD's.

- During FY04 the Department coordinated the collection of crop samples on approximately 6200 acres of reclaimed land. Crop yields are checked to determine if the land has been restored to its original productivity by coal mine operators as required by the State's Surface Mined Land Reclamation Program.
- C-2000 Program:
  - During FY04 the state invested \$3.2M in the construction of 2011 soil and water conservation practices (terraces, waterways, etc.). The implementation of these practices resulted in a reduction of soil loss.
  - One million dollars was allocated for the Streambank Stabilization and Restoration Program, which helped save more than 18,000 tons of soil by stabilizing more than 15 miles of streambanks, spread across numerous projects throughout the state.
  - Four hundred fifty-seven abandoned wells have been sealed, further protecting public safety and welfare and preventing the contamination of aquifers.
- IDOA has been working with the Governor's Office and the IL EPA in an effort to address Facility Planning Area (sewer boundary) expansion issues. IDOA has the opportunity to review all submissions for compliance with the Farmland Preservation Act. The agencies are working to create a more balanced agricultural land protection approach with Facility Planning Area boundary expansion requests that would foster new development in Greenfield areas.
- IDOA has served on the Illinois River Basin Restoration Study Team with other state agencies. This team is working to ensure that the restoration of natural resources in the Illinois River Basin will be compatible with agricultural operations located in the watershed.
- IDOA is one of five state agencies working with local stakeholders in several Illinois counties on piloting local legacy projects. State agencies provide technical assistance and funding (when available) to encourage partnerships between counties and municipalities for developing and implementing a resource protection plan. The resource protection plan addresses agricultural, natural and cultural resources.
- On February 24, 2004, IDOA amended the Interior State Quarantine for the Asian Longhorned Beetle infestation in northeastern Illinois by deleting two quarantine zones. No beetles or infested trees had been discovered in more than three years in these two quarantined areas. The original discovery of the beetle in Illinois was on July 13, 1998. Since that time, more than 1,770 trees in eight quarantine zones have been removed. No beetles have been detected in the Chicagoland area since November 21, 2003.
- In 2004, the Department received the Illinois Recycling Association's award for Outstanding Statewide Recycling Program. IDOA's pesticide container recycling program was initiated in the early 1990s and is conducted annually. Agrichemical retailers and area farmers bring rinsed plastic pesticide containers to the one-day

collection event and the Department collects, inspects and granulates the containers. The Department has also established five permanent sites where farmers can recycle their plastic pesticide containers throughout the use season. The plastic chips are then shipped to a St. Louis, MO manufacturing company that uses them for fuel in concrete kilns and electric generation.

- The Department of Agriculture distributed approximately \$700,000 to Illinois-registered stake race winning thoroughbreds.
- Two bilingual Spanish-speaking meat inspectors were hired. This will greatly enhance the agency's ability to communicate food safety related issues to ethnic plants in northern Illinois.
- The Department of Agriculture worked with the agency's Latin American Trade Director to translate numerous publications into Spanish. The Bureau of Marketing routinely uses these materials when hosting international food and agribusiness buyers.

# Gubernatorial Initiatives

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During 2004, the Department of Agriculture continued its involvement in various initiatives put forth by the Governor. IDOA's involvement in the Governor's economic development program *Opportunity Returns*, Team Illinois and the Governor's Renewable Fuels working group are just three of those initiatives which will be highlighted in this report.



Opportunity Returns is Governor Blagojevich's comprehensive plan for restoring economic opportunity to Illinois – an approach that can bring jobs and growth back to our communities.

This approach to economic development in Illinois moves the state's focus to a more regional approach recognizing local communities understand their needs best. Ten regional plans have been developed to match the strengths and needs of each region. The Department of Agriculture's involvement in the Governor's Opportunity Returns initiative is through the agency's AgriFIRST and Specialty Crop grants.

Almost \$400,000 in AgriFIRST grants provided assistance to sixteen projects in nine of the Opportunity Returns regions. Grants can be used for feasibility studies, development of business and marketing plans and to obtain technical assistance in an effort to develop a value-added agricultural venture.

The Specialty Crop grant funds were part of a 2001 federal emergency agriculture act, which provided funds to all states for use in increasing the promotion of the specialty crop industry throughout the country. IDOA's initial allocation was \$900,000; \$250,000 was utilized to implement the one-time Specialty Crop Grant program. Governor Blagojevich awarded 28 projects grant funds in eight of the Opportunity Returns regions.

The combination of these two grant programs has resulted in the creation of more than 40 full and part-time jobs in Illinois.

In addition to the grant programs, the Governor also convened the first Livestock Summit to address improving the livestock industry in Illinois. The Department has taken the suggestions offered at the summit and met with various state agencies since the first meeting in October. The agency is working with other state agencies to create a legislative agenda for the 2005 legislative session.

Team Illinois is an unprecedented effort to combine state resources, create public-private partnerships and work with local citizens and community leaders.

Most state agencies are involved in this effort to help develop infrastructure and stimulate economic development in communities that face multiple challenges. Now entering its second year, Team Illinois has invested close to \$4M in funding and human and operating capital into four communities.

The first group of communities included: Savanna, Pembroke, Aurora and Alexander Counties.

The Department of Agriculture has been involved with this initiative since it first began in 2003. IDOA has provided staff and financial resources to aid in the development of projects in the four communities listed above.

IDOA continues its role with Team Illinois in 2005 and the group of state agencies, led by the Department of Human Services is looking to increase its impact by possibly adding additional communities this year.



The Governor has also established the Renewable Fuels Working Group. The Department of Agriculture is one of several state agencies involved with this initiative, which is designed to increase the use of renewable fuels throughout Illinois.

In 2004, the Governor issued several Executive Orders related to this effort. As a result the working group has created a marketing campaign to be used by state agencies to further encourage employees to use renewable fuels (E-85 and biodiesel) whenever possible. The working group continues to work to increase the amount of renewable fuels used by state employees and is in the process of developing additional marketing materials to provide further motivation to state employees. The working group will be issuing a report to the Governor and agency directors in early 2005 on the work that has been accomplished in the last year and the goals the group has outlined for 2005.

Gubernatorial initiatives were just one priority within the agency during 2004; the individual Divisions and Bureaus kept busy and achieved several accomplishments throughout the year. The remainder of this report will focus on each area's individual purpose and efforts in 2004.

# Agricultural Products Inspection

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The Department of Agriculture's Division of Ag Industry Regulation, Bureau of Ag Products Inspection is responsible for regulating seed, feed, fertilizer and anhydrous ammonia facilities in the state. The regulatory functions of this Bureau protect producers, consumers and the environment through sampling, analyzing and inspecting feed, seed, fertilizer products and facilities. The combination of inspections performed by the Department ensure agricultural products meet both quantitative and qualitative specifications in label guarantees and certifies products meet state and federal standards for export. A complete list of Bureau functions follows:

- Testing commercial feed, seed and fertilizer products to ensure they meet advertised quality and quantity specifications;
- Examining seed samples for purity, noxious weed content, germination and suitability for distribution;
- Analyzing seed quality for individual producers for a small fee;
- Evaluating the nutritional content of livestock feed;
- Certifying products for export meet state and federal quality standards;
- Conducting "Good Manufacturing Processes" inspections at feed manufacturing facilities;
- Inspecting NH<sub>3</sub> pressure vessels, facilities and systems for safety;
- Reviewing feed, fertilizer, seed and soil conditioner labels for accuracy and truthful labeling;
- Registering products and facilities; and
- Inspecting feed mills to verify they are adhering to BSE guidelines set by both the state and the Food and Drug Administration.

The Bureau's ten inspectors conduct nearly 900 inspections of anhydrous ammonia facilities annually. Inspections are carried out as required by the Rules and Regulations Relating to the Handling of Anhydrous Ammonia and Low Pressure Nitrogen Solutions, Equipment, Containers and Storage Facilities. Anhydrous ammonia is the most dangerous material handled by farmers and dealers. Inspectors provide an important consumer protection function by verifying storage tanks, applicators and nurse tank wagons are in safe operating condition. Inspectors also confirm storage tanks have the proper safety relief valves, excess flow valves and break away couplings on load out platforms. Inspectors also verify the hoses on the applicators are in good condition.

In addition to the 900 facilities inspected, IDOA also examines 27,600 nurse tank wagons annually to guarantee valves on the tanks are not leaking. Since nurse wagon tanks are pulled on public roads, wagons are also checked to guarantee they are safe to travel on the roads and are equipped with slow moving vehicle signs.

During 2004 the Bureau of Ag Products Inspection launched a new program conducting Risk Management Plan (RMP) audits at anhydrous ammonia facilities in Illinois for the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The USEPA is paying IDOA \$136,400 to conduct the

500 RMP audits in Illinois. The RMP audits verify the preparedness of anhydrous ammonia facilities in the event an accidental release of anhydrous ammonia occurs at a facility.

# Animal Disease Laboratories

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The Department of Agriculture operates four animal disease laboratories to provide analytical support for disease eradication programs. Laboratory personnel 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. Evaluations of the nutritional value of animal feed, water and soil samples are also made to ensure they are free from harmful substances.

The Centralia Animal Disease Laboratory, provides a variety of services, including animal disease testing, meat inspection and animal feed analysis. The laboratory administers more than 400,000 tests annually. Laboratory personnel offer diagnostic services, regulatory services (conducting more than 200,000 tests annually), water testing, rabies testing, meat chemistry (in cooperation with the agency's Bureau of Meat & Poultry Inspection), nutritional analysis of grains, forages, meat products and minerals fed to animals and analyzes soil samples for herbicide residue.

The Galesburg Animal Disease Laboratory provides a variety of services, including animal disease testing and meat inspection. The facility administers more than 450,000 tests annually. Laboratory personnel provide diagnostic services identifying bacteria, viruses and parasites that are a threat to Illinois' livestock and companion animals. Staff also conduct blood tests to ensure pets and livestock entered in shows are disease-free and to allow owners to sell and export animals, embryos and semen worldwide. The lab annually tests more than 200,000 blood samples collected for regulatory purposes as part of department programs to eradicate pseudorabies in swine and prevent the re-emergence of brucellosis in cattle. The laboratory conducts rabies tests.

The Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the US Department of Agriculture, operates the state-federal serology laboratory in Springfield. This lab provides analytical support for the state's animal disease eradication programs. Most of the lab's services are designed to detect brucellosis and equine infectious anemia.

The University of Illinois Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory provides diagnostic medical testing to assist veterinarians and public officials in identifying and controlling disease conditions affecting animals, animal industries and public health. The laboratory also provides research support on the University of Illinois Campus and assists in training veterinary and graduate students.

The laboratories are essential to the state's livestock industry. Through daily diagnostic, necropsy and other services, the laboratories in Galesburg and Centralia strive to enable Illinois livestock producers and their consulting veterinarians to maintain herd health and productivity.

The IDOA laboratories have also played an integral role in the state's West Nile Virus monitoring program. For the past two years, the Galesburg laboratory has tested birds for the

Illinois Department of Public Health in order to monitor the spread of virus across the state. By tracking the virus' spread through birds, counties are able to properly gauge mosquito abatement efforts to warn Illinois citizens and take other appropriate measures.

The Bureau of Animal Health and Disease Laboratories partnered with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to survey the health of the state's free-roaming white tail deer population. During the first weekend of shotgun season, IDNR and IDOA employees collect tissue samples from hunter-killed deer. The tissue is evaluated for tuberculosis and chronic wasting disease. The testing is important to livestock producers, because tuberculosis in the wild deer population can easily be transmitted to domestic cattle. Testing for chronic wasting disease is important to hunters and the sporting industry.

During 2004, Dr. Gene Niles, Director of the Animal Disease Laboratory Personnel at the Centralia Laboratory, achieved Diplomat status in the American Board of Veterinary Toxicology.

# Animal Health

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The Illinois Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Health is responsible for the detection and eradication of animal diseases. State veterinarians perform epidemiological investigations, develop plans to eradicate disease in infected herds and monitor and test animals. Animal health inspectors assist state veterinarians with livestock testing, collect milk samples from dairy herds, test poultry for disease and ensure livestock owners comply with testing requirements. These officials also inspect livestock markets for proper sanitation, monitor livestock identification and ensure animals are transported properly.

The Bureau licenses individuals and businesses such as auction markets, livestock dealers, feeder swine dealers and slaughter buyers who purchase and sell livestock for a fee or assume ownership of livestock to resell at a profit. Licensing allows the Bureau to ensure compliance with animal health laws and strengthens the livestock industry by taking action when businesses operate illegally. There are 21 auction markets, 881 livestock dealers, branches, and agents, and 121 livestock slaughter buyers that are regulated by the bureau.

The Bureau of Animal Health administers the following Acts.

- Bovine Brucellosis Eradication Act
- Illinois Bovidae and Cervidae Tuberculosis Eradication Act
- Illinois Diseased Animals Act
- Illinois Equine Infectious Anemia Control Act
- Illinois Feeder Swine Dealer Licensing Act
- Illinois Livestock Dealer Licensing Act
- Illinois Pseudorabies Control Act
- Illinois Swine Brucellosis Eradication Act
- Illinois Swine Disease Control and Eradication Act
- Livestock Auction Market Law
- Poultry Inspection Act
- Slaughter Livestock Buyers Act
- Trichinosis Control Act

In conjunction with disease control and eradication responsibilities, the bureau continues to develop an emergency response plan for animal disease/disaster events. The bureau sponsors seminars to aid in the development of local response plans and to train local veterinary practitioners to assist in the event of an emergency.

Current activities include the promotion of livestock premise identification phase of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). The ultimate goal of animal ID is the ability to trace an animal back to the herd of origin within 48 hours.

# Animal Welfare

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The Illinois Department of Agriculture enforces regulations concerning animal welfare. Officials license and inspect several types of animal-related businesses, including pet shops, dog dealers and breeders, boarding kennels and catteries, animal control facilities, animal shelters and pet foster homes and guard dog services. Animal welfare officials also respond to complaints concerning a variety of animal issues, such as inhumane treatment of animals, improper disposal of dead animals and animals running at large. This bureau responds to citizen complaints concerning suspected mistreatment or neglect of animals, animals running at large and failure to properly dispose of dead animals.

The Bureau of Animal Welfare administers the following Acts.

- Animal Welfare Act
- Animal Control Act
- Humane Care for Animals Act
- Domestic Animals Running at Large Act
- Feeding of Garbage to Animals Act
- Brand Act
- Horse Meat Act

# County Fairs & Horse Racing

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The Bureau of County Fairs and Horse Racing administers and distributes almost \$7.6 million in funds to 105 county fairs, 100 4-H Clubs and 25 vocational agriculture sections (FFA). The program funds are for premium and/or rehabilitation reimbursement.

About 400,000 entries at county fairs are eligible for premium reimbursement annually. In addition, 34,000 4-H club members and about 300 high school students benefit from the vocational ag program for premium reimbursement. About 4,700 acres in the state are eligible to receive rehabilitation reimbursement for maintenance and/or construction at county fair sites. The following are all considered eligible projects under the rehabilitation program: equipment purchases and repairs/maintenance; fuel for vehicles, racetrack maintenance; casualty and liability insurance (not including personal liability or workmen's comp); construction or purchase of permanent facilities and systems stored on fairgrounds; labor on grounds; interest on loans; building materials and supplies and initial "one-time" purchase of computer and accessories.

The Department's horse racing and breeding are known throughout the country. Illinois' standardbred and thoroughbred breeding and racing programs are among the top incentive programs in the Nation returning more than \$36 million to horse racing participants through horse racing purses and awards.

IDOA registers nearly 2,400 foals and 300 stallions annually that participate in the Bureau's racing and breeding programs. Illinois-bred races occur at five Illinois pari-mutuel racetracks, two state fairs and 42 county fairs.

In 2002, the Department introduced a racing quarter horse breeding and racing program. This relatively new program has registered more than 1,000 stallions, mares and foals. Quarter horse racing occurs at eight county fairs & one pari-mutuel track (Hawthorne Racetrack in Chicago).

# DuQuoin State Fair

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The DuQuoin State Fair is held on 750 acres of ground in DuQuoin, Illinois. In 2004, the fairgrounds added a new multi-purpose facility to help positively impact the Southern Illinois economy and provide a new venue to host local, regional and national events. During 2004, DuQuoin State Fair personnel have worked hard to increase the number of non-fair events held on the grounds in order to increase the revenue generating potential of the grounds.

The fair annually holds the World Trotting Derby on the mile track.

# Egg & Egg Products Inspection

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The Illinois Department of Agriculture provides consumer protection services by ensuring the quality of egg products sold within the State.

Agency inspectors evaluate the quality grading of eggs and egg products sold in Illinois in accordance to the Illinois Egg and Egg Products Act. The Act requires that anyone who grades, packs, sells or barter eggs must be licensed with the Illinois Department of Agriculture. Eggs sold for human consumption must be candled, graded and refrigerated. Egg cartons must be labeled to identify the day of packing, expiration date, grade, size, name, address and identification of the packer.

Inspectors perform inspections at all points of the distribution channel including packing plants, distribution centers, grocery stores, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, restaurants and bakeries. The department provides assistance to the USDA under a cooperative agreement to perform Federal Shell Egg Surveillance on a quarterly basis as mandated by federal law. Inspectors perform grading service on a fee or resident basis as requested under the USDA voluntary program. Five inspectors have achieved USDA certification as Federal Egg Graders.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture cooperates with the Food and Drug Administration, the Food Safety and Inspection Service, and the Illinois Department of Public Health to provide uniform enforcement of temperature requirements for eggs at all locations.

# Environmental Programs

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The Bureau of Environmental Programs is responsible for executing several state and federal programs for the protection of our environment.

Staff of the nursery inspection program work to control plant pests, diseases and noxious weeds through nursery grower, nursery stock dealer and greenhouse inspection and certification programs. Plant pest and disease quarantine programs are also regulated and administered by bureau staff members. The nursery inspection staff also inspects and certifies plant and plant products for domestic and international export.

The Department also registers pesticides; tests, certifies and licenses pesticide applicators; and investigates alleged cases of pesticide misuse. The Bureau operates a statewide agricultural pesticide container-recycling program and operates a pesticide laboratory that tests groundwater, soil and plant samples for pesticide residues and ensures accurate marketing and labeling of pesticides.

Another key program administered by Bureau staff involves the enforcement of proper storage, containment and disposal of pesticides and fertilizers. The Department also administers the Livestock Management Facilities Act that regulates the siting and construction of livestock production facilities across the state and includes requirements regarding facility setback distances, facility design and construction standards, waste management plans, and livestock manager certification. The Department has certified more than one thousand waste managers.

## **The Bureau also administers the following acts, rules and/or programs.**

- Livestock Management Facilities Act
- Illinois Insect Pest and Plant Disease Act
- Illinois Pesticide Act
- Illinois Noxious Weed Law
- Illinois Lawn Care Products Application and Notice Act
- Agrichemical Container Recycling and Unwanted Agricultural Pesticide Collections/Disposal
- Agrichemical and Lawncare Facility Containment Permits
- Exotic Pest Detection, Control and Possible Eradication
  - Gypsy Moth
  - Asian Longhorned Beetle
  - Emerald Ash Borer (Illinois Emerald Ash Borer Readiness Plan)
  - Sudden Oak Death
  - Pine Shoot Beetle
  - Japanese Beetle (Japanese Beetle Harmonization Plan)
- Plant and Plant Products Export Certification
- Pesticide Applicator Training & Testing Program (commercial and private applicator certification and licensing)

# Illinois State Fair

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The Illinois State Fair is held on the Department of Agriculture's 366-acre fairgrounds in Springfield, IL. The Illinois State Fair is now a ten-day event focused on the state's rich agricultural history. The fair has a more than 150-year tradition.



The State Fair has made significant progress under the Blagojevich administration and in 2004 the state fair boasted revenues in the black for the second straight year. Plans are now underway for the 2005 Illinois State Fair, August 12-21. During 2005, state fair personnel are working to accomplish the following objectives:

- increase attendance;
- increase marketing and promotion opportunities throughout the state;
- increase in quality entertainment – both in the Grandstand and Multi-Purpose Arena and throughout the streets; and
- increase the presence and prominence of agriculture.

Another component of the State Fair's role is non-fair events. The Department of Agriculture is working hard to generate additional events and to promote the fairgrounds as a premiere event venue in the Midwest. The fairgrounds are the home of the world's fastest dirt track, a grandstand, four indoor arenas, a covered outdoor arena and over 1,000 stalls for livestock or horses. The Multi-Purpose Arena hosted the 2001-2002 National High School Finals Rodeo and will host the 2006-2007 event. The Department of Agriculture's state fair personnel continue to employ new marketing approaches in an effort to increase the revenue generating potential associated with the state fairgrounds.

# Land & Water Resources

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Bureau of Land and Water Resources personnel provide technical assistance to landowners and local units of government wishing to develop farmland protection programs at the local level. Since most projects that convert agricultural land are private sector actions, local farmland protection programs are needed in order for farmland protection to be fully successful across Illinois.

In FY04, the Bureau of Land and Water Resources distributed nearly \$15 million in funds to Illinois' 98 soil and water conservation districts for programs aimed at reducing soil loss and protecting water quality. Illinois soil and water conservation districts provide valuable and much needed technical assistance to landowners on a variety of natural resource issues. These districts offer help on any of the following topics: soil conservation, water quality protection, wetlands management, flood control, soil erosion control at urban construction sites, stream bank stabilization, recycling interpretation, land use and site suitability and conservation education. In addition to monitoring these statewide programs, the Bureau works with other state and local officials to reduce the unnecessary conversion of farmland resulting from state-sponsored projects.

Conservation 2000 is a long-term, state-supported initiative to protect natural resources and enhance outdoor recreational opportunities in Illinois. The program implements strategies for maintaining the viability of Illinois' soil and water resources into the 21st century and beyond. Several state agencies share responsibility for administering Conservation 2000 funds. The Illinois Department of Agriculture oversees the following agriculture-related programs: the sustainable agriculture grant program, the conservation practices cost-share program, the streambank stabilization and restoration program, and the soil and water conservation district grants program.

The Bureau of Land & Water Resources also administers Illinois' Farmland Protection Program under the auspices of the Illinois Farmland Preservation Act. In accordance with the Act, when state agency development projects (e.g., highways, airports, wastewater treatment systems, enterprise zones, wildlife habitat proposals) will lead to the conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses, the sponsoring agency is required to provide official written notice to the Department of Agriculture. Upon receipt of that notice, the Department will conduct an agricultural impact study. The study is performed to determine the extent of the farmland conversion impacts that will be caused by the proposed action. As part of the study, the IDOA identifies measures to minimize those impacts on Illinois' finite agricultural land base. A copy of the study is provided to the state agency sponsoring the project, Governor Blagojevich and key legislative leaders.

The Bureau of Environmental Programs administers the Illinois Bees and Apiaries Program. The program is designed to assist beekeepers throughout Illinois with the management and protection of honeybee colonies. Under the



Illinois Bees and Apiaries Act, the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) inspects honeybee colonies as a service to the beekeeping industry. The purpose of the inspections is to determine the general health of honeybee colonies. During the course of an inspection, IDOA Apiary Inspectors closely examine beehives to detect diseases and pests and to provide advice on needed treatments. Inspections are provided free of charge to beekeepers around the state. The Act also requires beekeepers to register their colonies with the IDOA. Registration is as simple as completing a brief one-page form and mailing it to the IDOA. A registration certificate is provided to beekeepers that register with the IDOA. There is also no charge for registering honeybee colonies with the IDOA.

Education is an important component to all of the Department's programs and the services offered to constituents. When discussing education, it is often assumed it is in regard to educational programs designed for youth. The Department offers programs to all Illinois citizens.

One important educational component is the Henry White Experimental Farm. The farm, located in St. Clair County, serves as an outdoor laboratory for sustainable agriculture. The farm has 94 acres containing wetlands, evergreen and deciduous groves, and restored prairie and wildlife habitat. Research conducted on the farm involves projects for corn and soybeans, prairie, wetlands and woodlands.

Sixty-five of the farm's 94 acres are devoted to the cultivation of crops, mainly corn and soybeans, which demonstrate various sustainable agriculture practices. In addition to providing valuable research information for farmers, the site also hosts an annual field day where specialists explain how the farm benefits agriculture and wildlife. In 2000, the White Farm received an International Merit Award from the Soil and Water Conservation Society for exemplary educational efforts and for the numerous volunteers who have contributed to those efforts. Tours of the farm are given to students and adults throughout the year.

The Department also provides public educational opportunities at Watershed Park. Watershed Park in an interactive educational exhibit on water quality protection. Featured in the park are numerous exhibit stations where the public learns about water quality issues in a watershed. Watershed Park is open during the Illinois State Fair and by appointment at other times during the year.

# Marketing & Promotion

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As the agricultural industry faces increased competition from those who were previously net importers of many farm products; market development and value added agribusiness ventures become increasingly important. The Bureau of Marketing and Promotion coordinates a wide variety of programs to promote Illinois food and agricultural products in both domestic and international markets. IDOA works with Illinois' processed food industry, all types of agribusinesses and the various agricultural commodity groups in the state. The Bureau's strong working relationships with the USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS), the Mid-America International Agri-Trade Council (MIATCO) and the US Livestock Genetics Export (USLGE) enable IDOA to leverage federal dollars to assist Illinois companies in export promotion.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture partners with the American Egg Board (AEB) to promote the egg industry in Illinois. AEB provides funding to states with egg producers (75,000 layers or more), and the Bureau of Marketing & Promotion was responsible for oversight of \$33,941.80 for egg promotions and activities during 2004. IDOA will receive \$35,203.02 in 2005. The funding comes from a national egg check-off and is used for trade shows, informational workshops, advertising, distribution of materials and resources, and cooking demonstrations.

The Bureau also works closely with Illinois commodity groups to secure funding for county agricultural literacy programs throughout the state through a program known as Partners in Agricultural Literacy. In 1987, three counties began agricultural awareness programs. The program now encompasses 58 programs serving more than 60 counties. In FY 2004, the agricultural literacy programs impacted 225,905 students and 14,181 educators. The cost of these innovative and effective learning experiences is significantly offset by private sector donations at the state and local levels. Partners granted \$278,817 to the local coalitions, which in turn generated \$914,410 in private sector matching funds. Agricultural literacy coordinators conduct teacher workshops, classroom presentations and other agricultural related events and activities for students, teachers and parents.

The Bureau, in an effort to assist the aquaculture industry in the state, has initiated several new services targeted at this growing industry including the development of an on-line Aquatic Products Directory as a service to aquaculture producers and buyers of aquatic products. IDOA is also working closely with Southern Illinois University to provide technical service and support to aquaculture producers in the state. Programs will be available during the spring of 2005.

The Bureau works closely with the Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Association to promote this rapidly expanding industry. We are currently assisting them in the process of allocating monies appropriated by the legislature to provide technical and promotional assistance to both the grape growing and wine making industries in the state.

The Bureau oversees the USDA National Organic Program cost-share program in which grant funding is used to reimburse producers up to 75% (or a maximum of \$500) for the cost of their yearly organic certification. The program was recently extended until September 30, 2006. To date, the program has reimbursed 99 organic producers in the state a total of \$39,987.32. We are currently waiting for the allocation of additional funding for the newly extended period. We are using company information obtained via this program to create an Illinois organic growers database.

The Bureau has also worked closely with the Illinois Specialty Growers to create and promote a new logo for use by Illinois specialty crop growers, farmers markets, retail supermarkets and others in identifying Illinois produce. The “Illinois - Where Fresh Is” logo development was



funded through the USDA Farm Assistance bill. Banners featuring the logo were sent to Illinois community farmers markets. The Bureau also promotes community farmers markets on the Department’s website. Currently, the Bureau maintains a database of 157 community farmers markets statewide. The Bureau also co-sponsors a farmer’s market at the Illinois State Fair with the Illinois Specialty Growers where the logo is featured.

In addition to domestic marketing activities, the Bureau is actively involved in assisting Illinois food companies, farms and agribusinesses in promoting and selling their products abroad. Industry tours, trade missions, buyers’ missions and trade shows are just some of the ways the Bureau accomplishes this.

Industry tours are broad-based tours in which the Department brings buyers from around the globe to Illinois in order to showcase a specific agricultural industry, primarily livestock, dairy, grains, oilseeds, feed ingredients and equipment. The Department of Agriculture’s foreign trade offices recruit buyers.

Buyers Missions are usually smaller groups that are focused on specific products for a specific purchase, i.e. processed or value-added food products, food grade soybeans, white corn, breeding swine, cattle, sheep, goats, horses, etc. Buyers missions are sometimes a result of previous industry tours or trade missions, and are sometimes requested by USDA/FAS personnel or foreign posts.



The Bureau of Marketing & Promotion also organizes and participates in both domestic and international trade shows. The Bureau recruits Illinois food and agribusiness companies to participate in the Illinois Products Expo, a consumer-focused food show in Springfield, IL, and international food and agribusiness shows in Chicago and around the world.

Some buyers missions and trade missions are federally funded through US Livestock Genetics Export, Inc. (USLGE). Projects are submitted and approved based upon review by a board of directors and USDA. MIATCO-sponsored buyers missions are primarily funded by USDA as well.

During fiscal year 2003 and 2004, the Bureau hosted more than forty industry tours and buyers missions, facilitated more than 1300 buyer-seller introductions and more than 400 small and medium-sized food and agribusiness companies accessed the Bureaus programs and activities.

# Meat & Poultry Inspection

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The Bureau of Meat and Poultry Inspection is responsible for the administration of the Meat and Poultry Inspection Act which protects consumers in relation to wholesomeness, deceptive advertising and proper labeling of meat and poultry products. Department of Agriculture inspectors are responsible for the inspection of all phases of intrastate slaughter and processing from ante mortem inspection through slaughter and processing and to the retail level.

Two of the state's animal disease laboratories conduct tests to ensure compliance with the regulations. These tests include analysis for economic wholesomeness, antibiotic residues, as well as testing for harmful food borne bacteria. Laboratory support is provided for veterinarians in their diagnosis of conditions found in livestock presented for slaughter.

The Department licenses two types of meat and poultry establishments and each license is available for \$50.00.

Establishments issued a Type I license shall be permitted to receive live animals and or poultry and/or meat and poultry products for slaughter and processing, under inspection, by Department Personnel. Meat and/or poultry products that are produced, under inspection and properly labeled are eligible for sale in intrastate commerce.

Establishments issued a Type 2 license shall be permitted to receive live animals and/or poultry and/or meat and poultry products for slaughter and processing as a service only. Animals and poultry and/or animal and poultry products may be presented for slaughter and/or processing by the owner for the owner's own personal use in his or her household. Meat and/or poultry products processed and/or produced in a Type 2 establishment are not eligible for sale in commerce.

In some instances a retail store processing and selling meat products also must be licensed as a processor with the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

There are 263 meatpacking plants and 597 brokers licensed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

# Warehouses

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The Illinois Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Warehouses (BOW) administers both the Illinois Grain Code and the Personal Property Warehouse Act and also manages the Illinois Grain Insurance Fund.

The Bureau of Warehouses is the licensing and regulatory authority for all grain dealers and state licensed grain warehouses operating in Illinois. The bureau's regulation of the Illinois grain trade provides protection to the industry's direct customers including farmers and bankers. IDOA's Bureau of Warehouses also provides protection to all indirect parties that have a beneficial interest in the farmer's ability to receive payment for grain.

The financial security of grain transactions is guaranteed with licensees through the administration of the state's Grain Insurance Fund. Another function of the BOW is to license and regulate personal property warehouses. These storage warehouses include companies storing household goods or business records and commercial distribution warehouses.

The Bureau's twenty-six field examiners are responsible for the annual examination of 388 grain licensees with a combined total of 1,114 locations, which represents the largest grain handling infrastructure in the United States. The 388 companies hold 380 Grain Dealer licenses, 320 State Warehouse licenses and 24 Federal Warehouse licenses with a storage capacity of 1,133,528,000 bushels. A licensee that violates any provisions of the Grain Code may be subject to suspension or revocation of their license, and/or a hearing, which may result in the licensee posting collateral if found guilty of the alleged violation.

The Bureau also regulates the state's 454 licensed companies that have 688 locations under the Personal Property Storage Act. The 454 companies are comprised of 405 commercial and 49 governmental fairs.

Besides performing routine examinations, bureau employees are also charged with the responsibility of investigating complaints regarding unlicensed grain dealers and warehouses that store grain and/or warehouses that store personal property.

# Weights & Measures

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The Bureau of Weights and Measures provides a valuable consumer and commercial protection function by ensuring accurate measurement and delivery of wholesale and retail commodities, monitoring the quality of motor fuel products, and maintaining laboratories for metrology standards and grain moisture measurement.

The Bureau's twenty-five field inspectors are responsible for the annual inspection of more than 125,000 weighing and measuring devices used commercially within the state. Devices that do not meet the specifications and tolerances for the state are rejected and cannot be used until repaired and placed back into service by a registered service company. Retail motor fuel dispensers (gas pumps) account for approximately 92,000 of the devices inspected. Other devices inspected include small scales, livestock scales, vehicle scales, law enforcement scales, LPG meters, moisture meters and fuel meters at petroleum terminals. A device inspection fee is charged to support this program.

The Metrology Laboratory maintains custody of the Illinois primary standards for length and volume. The laboratory is recognized by the United States Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) by maintaining standards that are traceable to NIST and through an annual review to demonstrate measurement proficiency. The laboratory tests and calibrates standards used by inspection staff, registered service companies and private industry. The Bureau's Moisture Meter Laboratory prepares grain samples for the inspection of moisture meters.

The Bureau licenses companies who sell, install or repair commercially used weighing and measuring devices. Service persons must pass an examination before becoming certified as a registered service technician. There are approximately 1,500 service companies and technicians registered by the Bureau of Weights and Measures.

Motor fuel quality is regulated through the analysis of motor fuel samples collected by inspectors. Samples are analyzed to ensure that the product meets the specifications of the American Society for Testing and Materials. Inspectors also ensure that proper labels for octane and ethanol (if present) are posted on the motor fuel dispensers.

In addition to annual device inspections, the Bureau also investigates consumer complaints regarding weighing and measuring devices.

# Summary

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The agency has maintained a high standard of performance and has streamlined itself as part of The Governor's overall plan to make government more efficient and responsive to taxpayers. The Department's efforts to protect Illinois consumers and maintain the safety of the State's food supply have been successful. All divisions and bureaus have worked collectively to meet the agency's core mission and corresponding objectives, while at the same time reducing total expenditures in an effort to do more with less and to accomplish that goal more efficiently.

Department of Agriculture staff continues to address the agency's objectives and key initiatives while providing superior services to our constituency. In the last year IDOA has improved our animal disease surveillance programs by increasing inspections. The Department remains vigilant in protecting the state's agricultural resources while at the same time preserving our natural resources.

IDOA continues to maintain a strong working relationship with small to medium food and agribusiness companies. The Department provides various domestic and international marketing opportunities, which help companies interested in accessing new markets for their food and agricultural products.

The Department of Agriculture also maintains a close working relationship with several other state agencies in an effort to increase cooperation among state agencies, enhance services and programs provided and eliminate duplication while streamlining state government.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture has been one of the most effective agencies in meeting the governor's goal to make government more efficient and less duplicative. In addition, the Department has been able to maintain high levels of performance and even been able to enhance constituent services by accessing federal funds.

The Department continues to seek new partnerships to help extend the agency's budget and expand the services provided to our constituency while at the same time meeting the agency's goals and objectives to regulate, protect and promote Illinois agriculture.

In an effort to further expand the Department's services while at the same time capturing revenue the Department is searching for and implementing new revenue generating opportunities for the fairgrounds. The economic impact of attracting new events will not only help make the fairgrounds self-sustaining (a major goal of the administration), but will also provide additional revenue for the city, county and other surrounding areas.

Even though IDOA continues to search for new partnerships and revenue generating opportunities it is essential that the budget submitted be approved as it is imperative if the Department is to continue to address new challenges effectively in an effort to provide protection to Illinois consumers and the agricultural industry of the state as it is the # 1 industry and largest individual sector of the state's economy.