



THIRD-GENERATION FARMER: Doug Goehring (front) accepts Gov. John Hoeven's appointment as North Dakota's ag commissioner.

Goehring named new ND ag commissioner

NORTH Dakota Gov. John Hoeven has named Doug Goehring, Menoken, N.D., as the state's new Agriculture Commissioner.

Goehring, a Republican, replaced Roger Johnson, a Democrat, who resigned to become president of the National Farmers Union. Goehring ran against Johnson in 2004 and 2006 and lost.

"Doug brings a background in farming, research, renewable fuels, exports and other valuable business experience to the agency," Hoeven said in a statement released by his office. "His background and his character reflect the healthy combination of progressive thinking and traditional values he brings to the job, which is a good fit for North Dakota's agriculture community."

A third-generation farmer, Goehring operates a 2,000-acre farm and raises corn, soybeans, spring wheat, field peas, canola, winter wheat and alfalfa. He is a former president of Nodak Mutual Insurance Co. and a former director of the American Ag Insurance Co. He is also a member and investor in the Red Trail Energy ethanol plant in Richardton.

He is currently a director of the United States Soybean Export Council, director of the United Soybean Board,

Key Points

- Doug Goehring was appointed ag commissioner in North Dakota.
- He operates a 2,000-acre farm near Menoken, N.D.
- Goehring, a Republican, ran for the post in 2004 and 2006.

director of the North Dakota Soybean Council and secretary/treasurer of the North Dakota Grain Growers Association. He is also a member of the North Dakota Stockmen's Association, North Dakota Farm Bureau and the North Dakota Soybean Association.

"My goal for North Dakota agriculture is to encourage innovation and maximize opportunity for all aspects of production agriculture — from traditional livestock and grain production to sugarbeets and the specialty grains sector in our state," Goehring says.

"I want the North Dakota Department of Agriculture to be a vital resource for both producers and consumers, ensuring that our state continues to grow as a prime producer of food, fiber, feed and fuel not just in America, but in the world."

Source: North Dakota Governor's Office

Balancing act hikes ag fees

By LON TONNESON

THE state fair will get less money and dairy producers and processors will pay more money to help balance South Dakota's \$3.9 billion state budget beginning in July.

The state fair will receive only \$400,000 from the general fund this year. It received \$768,000 last year.

But fairgoers shouldn't see much of a change, says Bill Even, South Dakota secretary of agriculture.

The state fair — which has a \$2.4 million total budget that includes ticket sales, exhibitor fees and other income — will spend 30% less on grandstand entertainment (many acts have been willing to renegotiate their fees given the economy, Even says), 50% less on 4-H and 33% less on advertising. It will also put off maintenance and repair projects, and charge more for beer, camping, and some other goods and services. Gate admission, however, will remain the same.

"The state fair survived the Depression and two world wars. It will survive this recession," Even says.

Dairy fees

South Dakota's 450 milk producers and half-dozen milk processors will pay approximately \$219,000 more annually in inspection fees, licenses and a raw-milk assessment.

The federal government requires the inspection and licensing program for interstate shipment of milk, cheese and other dairy products. About 75% of South Dakota's milk and milk products is shipped out of state. The program also makes it possible for dairy farmers to qualify for Grade A milk premiums, and it assures consumers that the milk supply is safe.

The inspection program currently costs approximately \$755,000 per year. The state of South Dakota has been paying 90% of the cost. Milk producers

Key Points

- Agriculture contributes to the balancing of South Dakota's budget.
- The South Dakota State Fair and the dairy industry took the biggest hits.
- New fees will cost milk producers and processors an extra \$219,000.

and processors have been paying 10%. The split will now be 50-50.

Dairy wasn't singled out for fee hikes, Even says. Gov. Mike Rounds directed all state agencies to make their fee-based programs self-sufficient. The Legislature approved fee and license increases totalling \$5 million annually.

"I hated raising the fees, but I think this is equitable," Even says.

More cuts

The cuts and fee increases for agriculture could have been worse. State legislators appropriated \$388 million in federal stimulus money to shore up the budget over the next three years. But some officials say the state's structural deficit problem remains. Eventually, South Dakotans will have to decide how much government they want and can pay for — including whether tax dollars should continue to help pay for the state fair or fund milk inspections.



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