

Farm Commodity

Steve Pedersen, director; Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines 50319; 515-281-5998

The Farm Commodity Division works to promote and assist in the sales of Iowa agricultural products and commodities. The division includes four bureaus: Sheep, Commodities, International Trade, and Agricultural Diversification.

In addition, the division is responsible for the operation of the Iowa Agricultural Trade Center, a team effort with Iowa commodity groups, corn, soybeans, pork, and cattle. The Center was established to expand existing markets and create new ones. The Center is a member of the Iowa International Trade Center services network which includes trade leads, translation, finance, and international legal services. The Iowa Agricultural Trade Center is also a member of the World Trade Center Network which allows access to trade leads with 3,500,000 members.

Iowa Grain Indemnity Board

The 71st General Assembly established the Iowa Grain Indemnity Board within the department. The seven-member board determines claims and adjusts the fees of the Iowa Grain Depositors and Sellers Indemnity Fund. This fund was established to protect producers and state-licensed grain dealers-warehouse operators. There is a per-bushel fee on all grain sold or stored in a state-licensed grain facility and an annual fee on all state-licensed grain dealers-warehouse operators.

Board members

DALE M. COCHRAN, Secretary of Agriculture, Chairman

WILLIAM HAGER, Commissioner of Insurance

STEVEN F. MILLER, State treasurer's designee

MARIE G. ELLINGSON, Walker

OWEN D. FINCHAM, McCallsburg

CAROLYN ANN ROBERTS, Sutherland

FRED TOMLINSON, Ankeny

Laboratory

Daryl Frey, director; Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines 50319; 515-281-8589

The Laboratory Division assures that agricultural products are safe for use, perform properly, and cause no harmful side effects to the environment. The division includes these laboratories: Federal/State Animal Health; Meat and Poultry; Dairy; Feed and Fertilizer; Drug, Antibiotic and Vitamin; Seed and Entomology; Pesticide Residue and Pesticide Formulation.

The division also includes the bureaus of Commercial Feed, Medicated Feed, and Fertilizer and Pesticides who work in conjunction with the laboratories and field staff providing administrative support services.

The division assumed new responsibilities under the Groundwater Protection Act of 1987 including the following: 1) the training and testing of pesticide applicators; 2) the licensing of urban pesticide dealers; 3) the notification of adjacent property owners of pesticide application in urban areas; 4) the establishment of statewide data base on pesticide use; and 5) the implementation of an agricultural initiative in best management practices in the use of agricultural chemicals.

Regulatory

Ron Rowland, director; Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines 50319; 515-281-3325

The Regulatory Division provides consumer protection through a staff which includes field inspectors, veterinarians, and grain warehouse examiners. The field staff is supported by the technicians and program specialists of the following bureaus: Animal Health, Animal Welfare, Meat and Poultry, Grain Warehouse, Horse and Dog Breeding Program, Dairy Products Control, and Weights and Measures. The division also provides staff for the Iowa Board of Veterinary Medicine and the Grain Indemnity Board.