

Bee Issues: Communication is the Key



Jim Gray

North Dakota Department of
Agriculture

Statistics

- #1 Honey Producing State
 - 33 million pounds of Honey in 2013
 - Valued at \$67.6 million
- 482,560 Registered Colonies
- 205 Licensed Beekeepers
- 11,050 Registered Apiary Locations



Beekkeeping Law

- ALL beekeepers need a license, good for 1 year
- Entrance Permit
- Register number of colonies
- Register all apiary locations
 - Landowner permission-good for years
- Identification of hives
 - Name, address, phone #



Communication is the Key!

- Two public meetings focused on pollinator issues
 - November 2012 Pesticide & Fertilizer Forum
 - July 2013 Pollinator Summit
- NDDA July 31st 2013 Pollinator Summit
 - About 100 attendees
 - Represented stakeholders
 - Agriculture
 - Beekeepers
 - Pesticide Applicators
 - Government (EPA, USDA)
 - Academia (NDSU, U of MN)
 - Members of the public

ND Pollinator Plan

Goals

- Ensuring positive relationships & peaceful co-existence
- Reducing pesticide exposure and risk to pollinators
- Ensuring robust apiary industry & agriculture economy
- Continued high compliance with state pesticide & apiary requirements

NORTH DAKOTA POLLINATOR PLAN

A North Dakota Department of Agriculture Publication

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*Doug Goehring
Agriculture Commissioner*



More on the ND Pollinator Plan...

- Includes voluntary, reasonable best management practices
 - Pesticide user BMPs
 - Landowner/Grower BMPs
 - Beekeeper BMPs
- Released in draft form on December 2
- Final draft released late February 2014
- Meant to be revisited & updated periodically

Pesticide User BMPs

- **Utilize IPM**
 - Economic thresholds
 - Product choice
 - Tank partners
- **Use registered pesticides according to the label**
- **Apply pesticides when bees are least active**
 - Early morning, late evening
 - Temperature less than 55 degrees F

Pesticide User BMPs

- **Avoid drift**
 - To hives
 - To flowering plants
 - To water
- **Choose pesticides with lower risk to bees**
- **Identify and notify beekeepers within 2 miles of site at least 48 hours prior to application**
 - Apiary map on NDDA homepage(www.nd.gov/ndda)



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Layer Visibility

- Apiary, Vineyards/Winerys and Organic
- Weed Inventory
- Transportation
- Hydrologic Features
- State Lands
- Federal Lands
- Geo Political Boundaries

Go To Location

Zoom to County

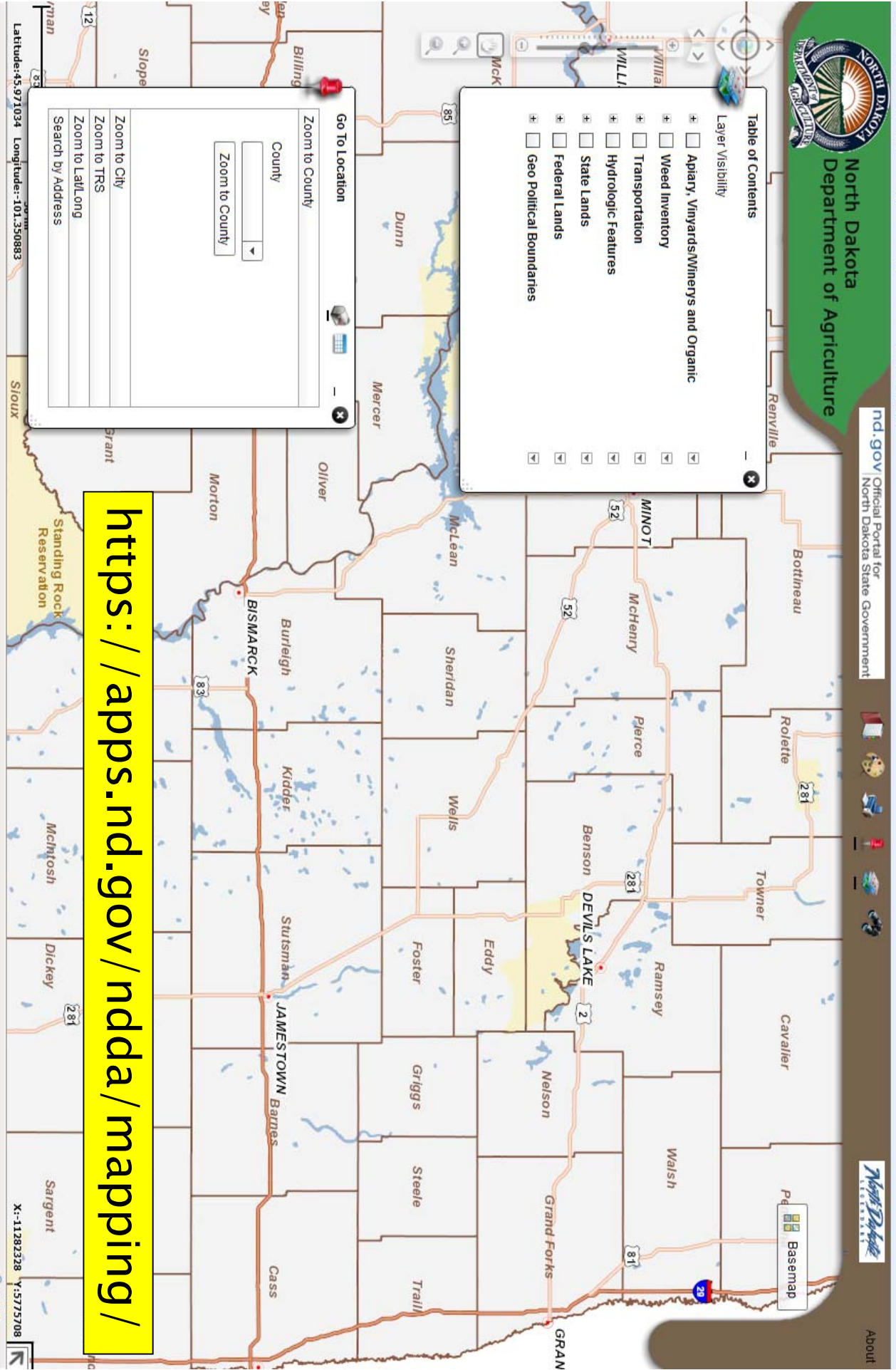
County

Zoom to City

Zoom to TRS

Zoom to Lat/Long

Search by Address



<https://apps.nd.gov/ndda/mapping/>



nd.gov Official Portal for North Dakota State Government



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- Apiary, Vineyards/Wineries and Organic
- Vineyards
- Apiary
- Organic
- Weed Inventory
- 2012 County Weeds
- 2011 County Weeds
- 2010 County Weeds

Go To Location

Zoom to County

County:

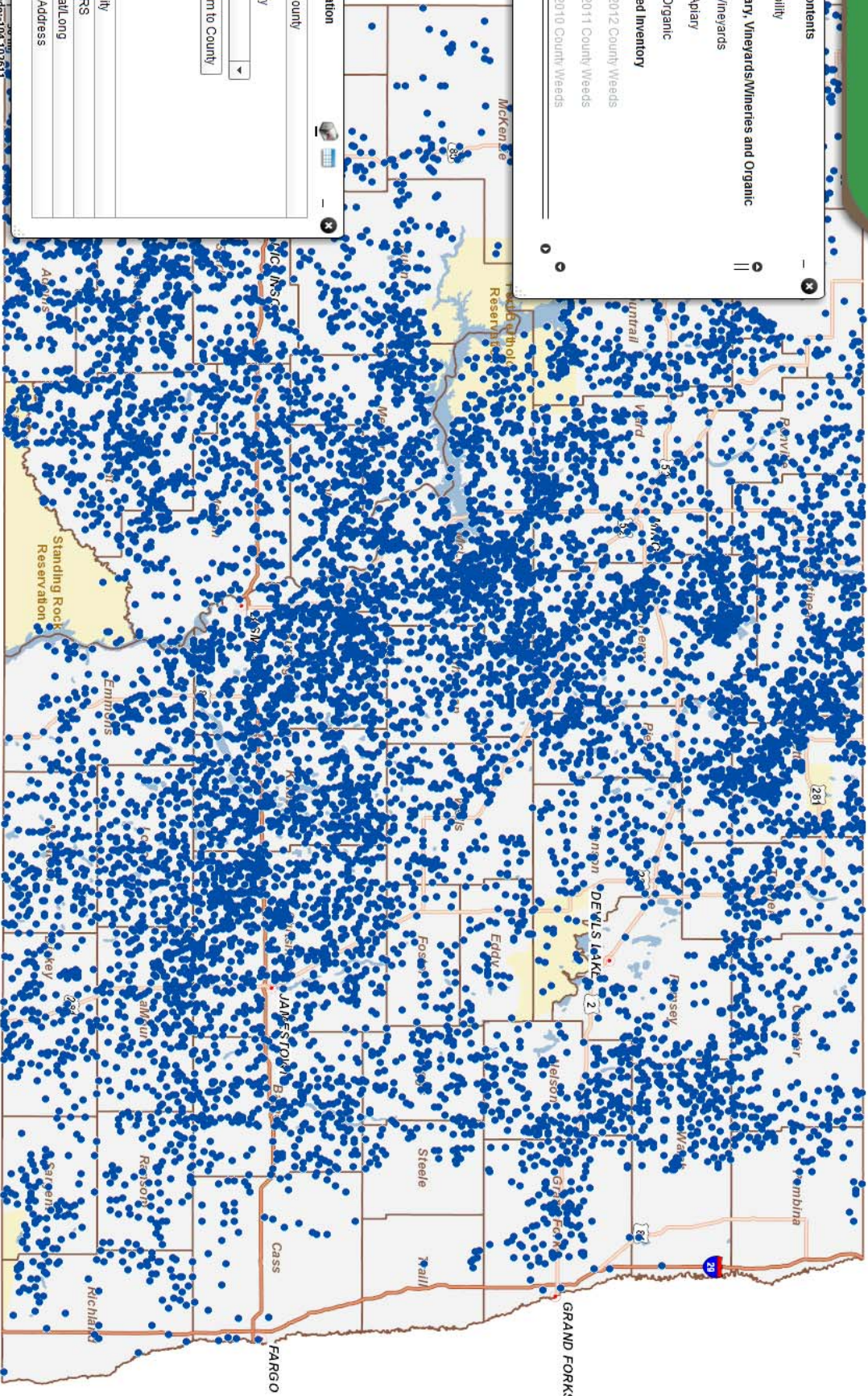
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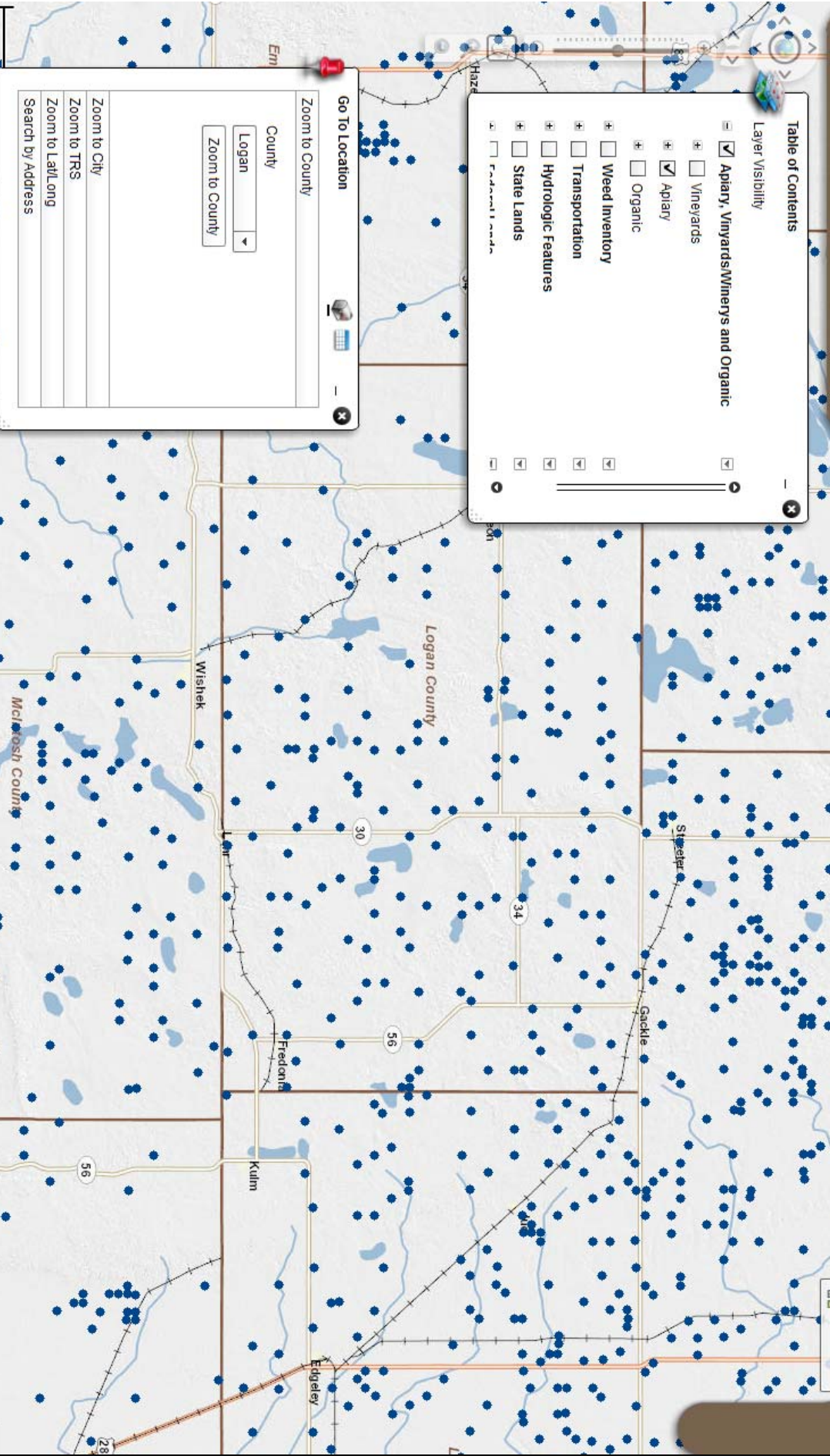


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Logan

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About

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Bee Farms:

Bee Keeper: MILLER, JOHN R.
Keeper #: 291
Phone: (701) 485-3350
Sec. Phone: (916) 718-4243
County: LOGAN
Township: 134
Range 070
Section: 21
Q Section: SW
Latitude:
Longitude:
Landowner: BLAIR BECHTLE

[Zoom to](#)

Go To Location

Zoom to County

County: Logan

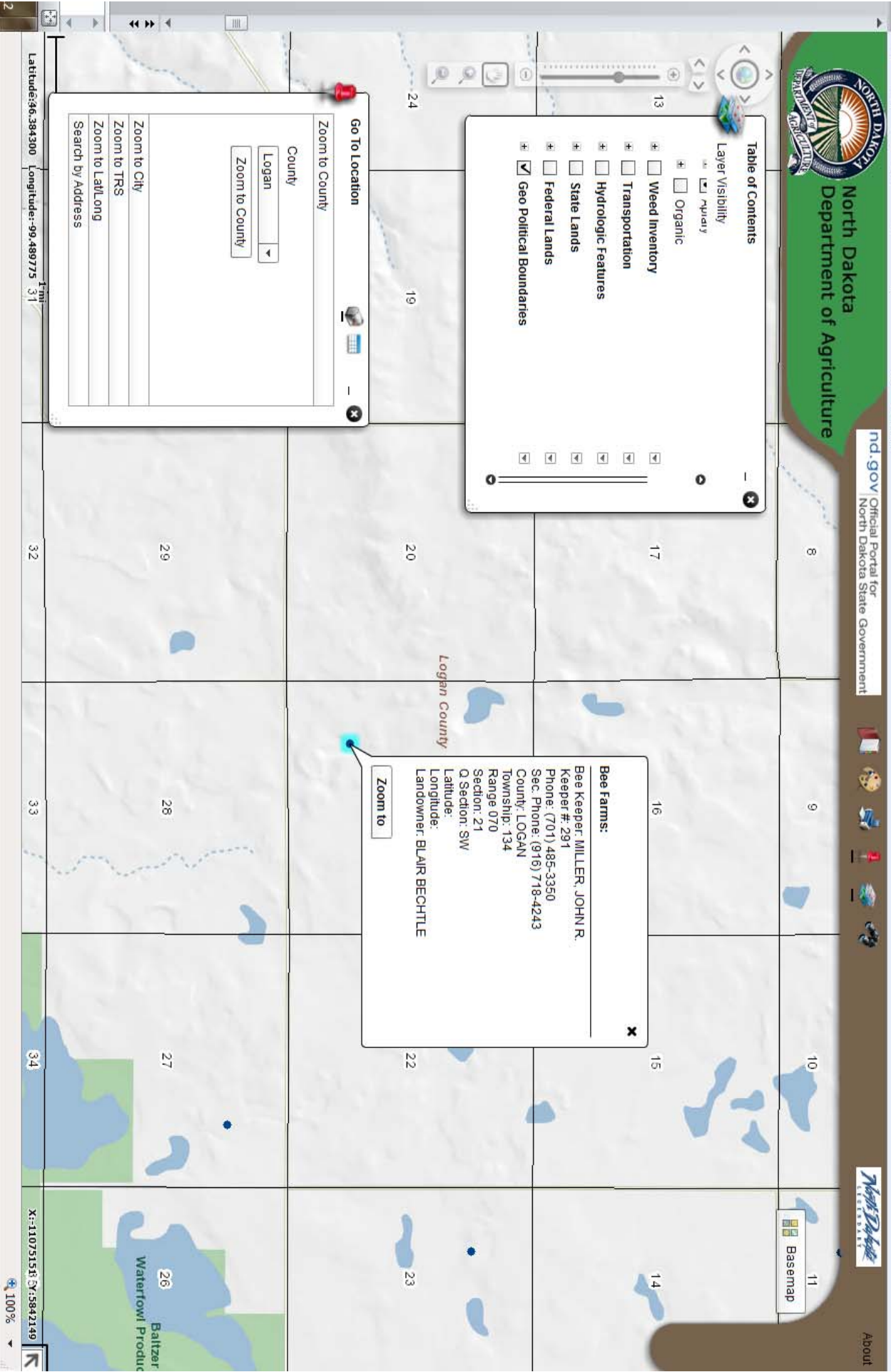
[Zoom to County](#)

[Zoom to City](#)

[Zoom to TRS](#)

[Zoom to Lat/Long](#)

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Landowner/Grower BMPs

- **Work with beekeepers to choose beehive locations**
 - minimal impact
 - access to forage and water
 - Roads/trails to use
 - Provide contact information for applicators, renters, and neighbors
- **Communicate with renters about bee issues.**
 - Discuss bee issues with renters when rental agreements are negotiated, including if beekeepers are going to be allowed access to property and who has authority to grant access
 - Include renters when determining hive placement

Landowner/Grower BMPs

- **Communicate with pesticide applicator whose responsibility it is to look for hives, notify neighbors, etc.**
 - Who has the responsibility to identify and communicate with nearby beekeepers.
 - Applicators may do this as part of their standard procedures, but some landowners may prefer to make beekeeper contacts themselves.

Landowner/Grower BMPs

- **Inform agronomists and crop consultants if there are beekeepers near fields**
 - Ensure pollinators are considered when looking making pest management decisions
- **Plant bee forage**
 - Consider planting flowering plants to improve bee forage, especially in non-farmable or non-crop areas.
 - May concentrate bees away from fields
 - If pesticide labels require vegetative buffers plant flowering plants
 - Cover crops
 - Even a small percentage of flowering plants can provide a considerable amount of forage for pollinators

Landowner/Grower BMPs

- **Utilize talc/graphite alternatives in planters**
 - When planting seeds treated with insecticides, utilize alternatives to talc/graphite as they become available

Beekeeper BMPs

- **Work with landowners to choose hive locations**
 - Minimal impact
 - Access to forage and water
 - Roads/trails to use
- **Be cognizant of neighboring landowners when placing and moving hives**
 - Ensure bees do not negatively impact neighboring landowners
 - Should avoid neighbor's bins, equipment storage, or day-to-day activities

Beekeeper BMPs

- **Work constructively with applicators when notified of upcoming pesticide applications**
 - Block, move, or net hives
- **Notify applicators when arriving and when moving hives**
 - Ensure applicators are aware of current hive locations and can notify you before making pesticide applications
 - Contact information for pesticide applicators can usually be obtained from landowners.

Beekeeper BMPs

- **Obtain landowner permission for hive placement every year and keep in contact**
 - As landowner information changes, it is important to ensure everybody is aware and bees are not placed without permission.
- **Inspect bee behavior regularly**
 - Ensure that pests are identified and managed as early as possible
 - Report all suspected pesticide-related bee kills to the NDDA pesticide program immediately
 - The NDDA will respond to complaints including collecting and analyzing samples

Beekeeper BMPs

- **Use registered pesticides according to the label**
- **Comply with all requirements of ND apiary law**
 - Intended to ensure open communication and a level playing field for beekeepers
 - Includes:
 - obtaining a beekeeping license each year and registering all beehive locations
 - Provide up-to-date hive location and contact information
 - Hives to be identified with the name and contact information of the beekeeper

Summary

- Strong feelings from ND growers that beekeepers are guests
- Regulatory-focused approach will likely be met with resistance from all stakeholders
- Goals/Areas of Focus:
 - Open communication
 - Improved understanding
 - Peaceful coexistence
 - Robust beekeeping industry & ag economy



Thank You