

## Agriculture and Forestry

The General Assembly approved amendments for the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry resulting in a net increase of \$508,000 GF and an increase to three full-time positions in the first year.

- **Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry**
  - *Fund Office in FY 2005.* Provides \$68,000 GF and three positions in the first year to establish the new Secretariat effective January 1, 2005. The second year appropriation is increased to \$540,000, of which \$150,000 will be transferred administratively to the first year to fund operations of the office prior to the enactment of the appropriation act.
  - *Asian Soybean Rust.* Provides \$50,000 GF in FY 2005 to develop early detection and monitoring tools and to research fungicide efficacy for the plant disease.