

problem, Goehring paused and responded with a hint of excited disbelief in his voice.

“In theory and technically yes, you could pinpoint that one plant that has an issue,” Goehring said. “Chances are that if you have an issue with one plant you have an issue in a spot in the field, but it may not be the entire field. But you will be able to send a sprayer out there, you’d be able to, possibly look at new technologies to be very pinpoint on what you want to apply, where you need to apply it. Part of this goes back to, and I have met with some of these companies, that have developed what they call optical signatures. They have went far enough to run the algorithms, develop the algorithms to look at deficiencies, to look at different pathogens, but also to identify different weeds out there so you can go out and target the species or target the issue you are dealing with. It’s amazing what they are doing.”

Visualizing this scenario in the field, it is easy to see how the remote controlled eye in the sky can replace monitoring the row of sunflowers with a pipeline in the Bakken. ■



TOM STROMME/Tribune

North Dakota agriculture commissioner Doug Goehring, right, speaks as a member of the North Dakota Industrial. Also shown are Governor Jack Dalrymple, center, and Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, left. “(UAS in North Dakota) is going to be a great story, because they are also going to be working in other areas when it comes to security, emergency services, but also for the energy industry,” Goehring said.

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