

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 30, 2017
TIME: 1:30 P.M.
PLACE: Room EW42
MEMBERS: Chairman Boyle, Vice Chairman Dayley, Representatives Bell, Miller, VanOrden, Burtenshaw, Kerby, Troy, Stevenson, Amador, Armstrong, Hanks, Zito, Erpelding, Toone
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None
GUESTS: Hannah Schwarz, ICL; Mitch Coats, Food Producers; Brandy Kay, IWGA

Chairman Boyle called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m.

Rep. Burtenshaw said he had been asked by **Chairman Boyle** to instruct the committee members on the State Agriculture Appropriations Bill. He explained the process of the agency projecting expenditures in September for the following year. Those requests are then reviewed by the Department of Finance, finalized by the Governor and culminate in the budget before the committee. Rep. Burtenshaw explained the different funds by category of General, Dedicated and Federal Funds.

Rep. Burtenshaw updated the committee on the Methyl Bromide Project in treating fields affected by potato cyst nematode (PCN). He explained the need for the budget that has been requested. He said there continues to be new developments as time passes and unknown consequences arise. Each of these must be met, studied and addressed. Rep. Burtenshaw reminded the committee of the terrible devastation this has caused several farm families as they work to deal with this infestation.

Rep. Burtenshaw explained to the committee the budget requested for the development of a software program that will facilitate the electronic tracking of animal identification numbers as well as other data pertaining to livestock movement into and out of the state. He explained how the method of tracking today is paper loaded and extremely difficult to manage.

In response to a committee question, **Dr. Bill Barton**, State Veterinarian, said sub-dermal chipping for cattle is more difficult than the proposed method of ear tagging. He also explained the means of tracking cattle brought into the state from out of state as well as those leaving and being transported out of state. He said cattle brought in from out of the country are quarantined for a set number of days before being released into the herd populations or for slaughter.

Rep. Burtenshaw spoke to the committee about some areas where there is increased concern over various types of invasive species and the need for the budget to be adequate to put into place safeguards that help to monitor and control these destructive species from invading our grounds and waterways.

Chairman Boyle thanked **Rep. Burtenshaw** for this insightful information concerning the development of the annual budget as well as the explanation of the various funds used to create it.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

Representative Boyle
Chair

Joan Majors
Secretary