

The Senate Agriculture, Veterans and Gaming Committee met on Monday, January 24, 2005 in Room 112, Capitol at 3:00 p.m. The following members were present:

Vickerman, Chair
Skoe, Vice Chair
Day
Dille
Hann
Koering
Lourey
Murphy
Nienow
Rest
Sams
Solon
Wergin

Senator Johnson was excused from today's meeting due to the death of his wife.

Senator Vickerman called the meeting to order at 3:11 p.m. Quorum presented at 3:13 p.m.

Senator Vickerman called on Senator Fischbach for S.F. 333, a bill that would allow two or less manufactured homes maintained by an individual on premises associated with an agricultural operation. These would be used to house workers for the ag business.

Don Adams and Hank Schreifels, Stearns County Environmental Services, testified in support of the bill.

Senator Koering moved that S.F. 333 be passed and be rereferred to the Jobs, Energy and Community Development. BILL PASSED.

Senator Vickerman stated we would now hear a report on organic agriculture in Minnesota.

Meg Moynihan, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, "SEE ATTACHMENT A." Ms. Moynihan gave current highlights regarding organic agriculture in Minnesota.

Chuck Enderson, President, Country Choice, "SEE ATTACHMENTS B & C." He stated their growth is being driven by: Increased consumer interest and Increased mainstream retail interest.

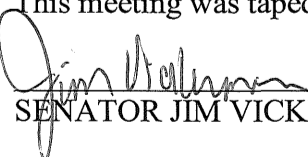
Pam Riesgraf, Jordan, MN. Ms. Riesgraf and her husband are organic dairy producers and were certified in 1991. She stated last year there was \$208 million in sales.

A letter from **Donnel Williamson, President, Kandiyohi County Farmers Union,** was entered into the records. **"SEE ATTACHMENT D."**

Senator Lourey asked how many farmers have "Minnesota Grown" recognition. Ms Moynihan stated she didn't know but she would find out and forward the information to the committee.

Meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

This meeting was taped.



SENATOR JIM VICKERMAN, CHAIR

by 

SANDI BROWN

01:17:51

Senate Committee Meeting Log

Committee Name: Ag., Vets, & Gaming

Date: January 24, 2005 Day: Monday

Start Time: 3:12pm

Agenda

3:13pm	Bill # (or Topic)	S. F. 333 Agriculture housing exemption
	Author	Fischbach
	Short Descriptor	Stems county Reps. Don Adams Dept. of Environmental Services - Hank Schreifels
	Action(s)	Motion to send SF. no. 333 to Jobs and Housing Approved & adopted sent to Jobs & Housing.
3:35pm	Bill # (or Topic)	Organic Ag. in Minnesota
	Author	
3:40pm	Short Descriptor	Meg Moynihan - MDOA Chuck Anderson - President County Choice Pam Riesgraf - Jordan organic producer
	Action(s)	
		4:30 pm see committee over
	Bill # (or Topic)	
	Author	
	Short Descriptor	
	Action(s)	
	Bill # (or Topic)	
	Author	
	Short Descriptor	
	Action(s)	

Senate Agriculture, Veterans and Gaming Committee

Monday, January 24, 2005

3:00 p.m. Room 112, Capitol

A G E N D A

Report: "Organic Agriculture in Minnesota"

Meg Moynihan, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Chuck Enderson, President, Country Choice, Eden Prairie

Pam Riesgraf, organic dairy producer for Organic Valley, Jordan

S.F. 333-Fischbach: Agricultural housing exemption.

Don Adams, Stearns County Environmental Services Director

Hank Schreifels, Department of Environmental Services