

The Senate Agriculture, Veterans and Gaming Committee met on Monday, March 20, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 112, Capitol. The following members were present:

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

Senator Vickerman called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. and called on Senator Sams for S.F. 3201, a bill appropriating \$2,500,000 from the general fund to the commissioner of agriculture for productive conservation on working lands.

Sheila Barsness, WesMin RC&D Council Executive Director, Alexandria, MN. Ms. Barsness did a power point presentation on the Productive Conservation on Working Lands Initiative. She stated they provide crop establishment payments to grow approved PCWL crops. "See Attachments A & B."

Dean Schmidt, RC&D Coordinator, testified in support.

Dennis Gibson, Farmer, Montevideo, Minnesota, testified he converts solar energy into photosynthesis which creates solar to solid for later use.

Senator Sams stated in 2007 they will get some federal dollars from the 2007 Farm Program.

Greg Russell, DNR, stated energy projects are on a small scale so they get a small amount of funding.

Keith Hyer, Willmar, MN Valley Alfalfa Products, testified in support.

Senator Sams moved S.F. 3201 be passed and re-referred to Finance. BILL PASSED.

Senator Skoe presented S.F. 3184, a bill establishing a beef cattle diagnostic team pilot project in nine counties. He stated Minnesota lost its bovine free status this past year. He added that five different herds had bovine tuberculosis and from that you have to test all of the ins and outs of those herds. The USDA holds 25 percent of payments because farmers haven't cleaned up. We now need to have a two-year free status. The contamination was most likely brought in from herds from the southwest United States or Mexico.

Kris Pitrini, Board of Animal Health, testified that all herds within a 10 mile radius of any deer that tested positive has to be tested.

Senator Skoe moved that S.F. 3184, be passed and sent to Finance. BILL PASSED.

Senator Dille presented S.F. 3283, and moved AMENDMENT SCS3283A-1. Senator Dille moved on Page 2, to delete subd. 7. AMENDMENT PASSED.

Greg Buzicky, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, stated their effort is on large, steel, containers that get permitted – not fiberglass.

Senator Lourey stated she wants non-corrosive put in some where for storing of liquid fertilizer.


Senator Vickerman stated the exemption for storing of 6,000 gallons was put in for the benefit of the little farmer.

Senator Dille stated on Page 2, line 22, delete "between January 1 and" and insert "before" AMENDMENT PASSED.


Senator Dille moved that S.F. 3283, as amended, be passed and re-referred to State and Local Government.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

This meeting was taped.



Sen. Jim Vickerman, Chair



by/ Sandi Brown

Senate Agriculture, Veterans and Gaming Committee

Monday, March 20, 2006

3:00 p.m.

Room 112, Capitol

AGENDA

S.F. 3201-Sams: Productive conservation on working lands appropriation. *Passed Finance*

Sheila Barsness, WesMin RC&D Council Executive Director,
Alexandria, MN

S.F. 3184-Skoe: Beef cattle diagnostic team pilot project establishment and appropriation. *Passed - Finance*

S.F. 3283-Dille: Minnesota agricultural fertilizer research and education council program. *Amended, Passed, State + Local*

Bill Bond, Executive Director, Minnesota Crop Production Retailers