

**West Virginia Legislature**  
**AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

**FINAL REPORT**  
**to**  
**Joint Committee on Government and Finance**  
**2011 - 2012 Interims**

*Members*

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**JUNE 2011**

The Agriculture and Agri-business Committee met on Monday June 13, 2011 at 11a.m. Paul Poling, of the WV Department of Agriculture presented the apiary report and discussed the effects of weather, temperature, insects, viruses, diseases, pesticides and funding concerns relating to the state bee population.

Topics of future meetings were discussed. Suggestions included the impact of environmental regulations on agriculture in West Virginia including but not limited to the Chesapeake Bay initiatives; a review of the General Stock Law, W.Va. Code 19-18-1 et seq.; the effects of workers compensation on agriculture workers and agriculture business; local food initiatives; and the progress of the Livestock Standards Board (appointment of members and progress of the development of the standards).

## **JULY 2011**

The Agriculture and Agri-business Committee met on Monday, July 11, 2011. Steve Hannah, former Deputy Agriculture Commissioner, provided an update on the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative, the inspection of the poultry farms by the EPA, and the Department of Agriculture's involvement with this initiative. Bob Tabb, Deputy Agriculture Commissioner then addressed the Committee. Gus Douglass, Department of Agriculture Commissioner, addressed the Committee.

## **AUGUST 2011**

The meeting was cancelled due to the redistricting special session.

## **SEPTEMBER 2011**

The Agriculture and Agri-business Committee met on Monday, September 12, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. Greg Hamons, WVU Extension Agent, Pocahontas County, and Sheldon Owen, WVU Extension Service Wildlife Specialist, made a presentation regarding the white-tailed deer damage study conducted by the WVU Extension Service.

## **OCTOBER 2011**

The Agriculture and Agri-business Committee met on Thursday, October 13, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. Gus Douglass, WV Agriculture Commissioner, discussed the proposed supplemental appropriation for the Department of Agriculture, updating the stock law, the deer nuisance and the need for invasive species inspectors. Bob Tabb, Deputy Agriculture Commissioner, discussed budget issues and the cost and need for the State Agriculture Lab to be relocated from the Guthrie Center to the Dow Industrial Park.

## **November 2011**

The Agriculture and Agri-business Committee met on Tuesday, November 15, 2011. Copies of "Landowner Perceptions of Deer Damage" from the WVU Extension Service and the economic impact of deer-vehicle crashes from the WV Office of the Insurance Commissioner were placed on the members desks as requested in prior meetings.

David Flannery, WV Commissioner for ORSANCO, discussed the Ohio River Basin Nutrient Trading Project. Questions and discussion followed. The Chair then recognized Dr. Alan Collins, WV Water Research Institute, to discuss the Kanawha River Basin Nutrient Trading Project. Questions and discussion followed.

## **December 2011**

The Agriculture and Agri-business Committee met on Wednesday, December 14 at 9 a.m. in the House Chamber. This meeting was to be a joint meeting with Judiciary

Subcommittee C, but Judiciary Subcommittee C did not participate.

Mr. Daniel Eades, WVU Extension Service, presented the results of his study regarding the economic impact and contributions of West Virginia's cervid farming industry to the state economy.

Marcel Fortin, representing the Deer Farmers' Association, introduced John Rose, a deer farmer and member of the Deer Farmers' Association Board of Directors to present to the Committee.

Agriculture Commissioner Gus Douglass discussed the proposed move of deer farming regulatory authority from the Division of Natural Resources to the Department of Agriculture.

Division of Natural Resources Director Frank Jezioro discussed the regulation of deer farming by the Division of Natural Resources.

### January 2012

The Agriculture and Agri-business Committee met on Sunday, January 8, 2012 at 12:00 p.m. Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Miller will discuss mobile meat processing units, and Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture Bob Tabb to answer questions regarding stock laws and exotic animals regulations.

The Agriculture and Agri-business Committee **REPORTS** as follows:

Your Committee **RECOMMENDS** that it continue to receive updates related to the Agriculture and Agri-business industry.

Respectfully Submitted,



**Senator Bob Williams**  
Chair



**Delegate Greg Butcher, Chair**  
**Del. David Walker, Vice Chair**