

MINUTES

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON Agriculture and Rural Development

DATE: March 1, 2016

Chairman Jenkins called the meeting to order at 12:00, noon. Representatives Jenkins, Victory, Pagel, Canfield, Hoadley, and Singh were present.

Representative Victory moved that the minutes of the February 23, 2016, meeting be approved; the motion was approved by voice vote without objection.

The Subcommittee heard a presentation by Jamie Clover Adams, director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), on the federal Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and on department efforts to assist producers with FSMA compliance. A copy of the director's presentation is found in the official minutes in House Fiscal Agency files.

Members asked questions about MDARD's FSMA compliance program:

Whether there were other agencies or organizations that could/would assist producers with FSMA and whether producers had asked MDARD for assistance.

If the director could estimate the total number of inspectors/educators that would be eventually needed.

Whether there was federal money available for education efforts.

What other states were doing and if there was opportunity for coordination with other states.

What the relationship was between FDA/FSMA standards, USDA GAP/GHP requirements, and private food safety audit requirements.

What the timeline was for MDARD's education program – would it be available for 2016 growing season?

The Subcommittee then heard testimony from John C. Baker, DVM, MS, PhD, Dean of Michigan State University's College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Baker requested a state appropriation to supplement operating costs of the Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health (DCPAH). Specifically, Dr. Baker asked for an on-going appropriation of \$1.5 million. A copy of Dr. Baker's testimony and other supporting documents are included in the official minutes in the House Fiscal Agency files.

In response to member questions, Dr. Baker indicated that the volume of agricultural industry animal testing was very low; fees that covered that actual costs of animal industry testing would be too high and uncompetitive – testing fees related to companion animals helped subsidize agricultural animal testing. Dr. Baker discussed the need to maintain equipment and facilities for accreditation. He noted that the university paid for academic staff salaries and utility costs, including the costs of operating the incinerator. Dr. Baker discussed the costs associated with preparation for animal health emergencies, such as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. Dr. Baker also noted that DCPAH did not test human samples; they would test a bird for West Nile Virus, but not a human.

The subcommittee then heard testimony from Matt Smego, representing the Michigan Farm Bureau, in support of the appropriation for DCPAH.

Larry Julian, representing the Michigan Allied Poultry Industries, and Georg Quackenbush, representing the Michigan Cattlemen's Association, each submitted cards in support of funding for DCPAH, but did not speak.

Chairman Jenkins adjourned the meeting at 1:00 PM.