



MICHIGAN  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
P.O. Box 30014  
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7514

**MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**Wednesday, May 13, 2015                      10:30 a.m.      Room 519 House Office Building, Lansing**

Representative Lauwers, Chair, called the meeting to order.

**MEMBERS PRESENT: Representatives Lauwers, Cole, Franz, Glardon, Johnson, Outman, Rendon, Courser, B. Roberts, Sheppard, Vaupel, Darany, Talabi, Driskell, LaVoy, Garrett.**

**ABSENT/EXCUSED: Representative Brunner.**

Representative Cole made a motion to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on May 6, 2015. No objections being offered, the minutes were accepted as presented.

Representative Johnson made a motion to excuse absent members. No objections being offered, absent members were excused.

Ray VanDriessche, Director of Community and Government Relations, Michigan Sugar Company, introduced Isabella Krolkowski, 2014 Michigan Sugar Queen, and spoke to the Committee regarding the following topics: beet acreage planted annually; beet production area by county; tons of beets to be harvested; sugar production; economic impact; recent history; grower buyout/merger; post co-op/merger investment; fuel consumption and investments in energy efficiency; value-added sales; GMO sugar beets; what genetic modification crops are (history, technology, evolution of crop improvement, crop domestication/genetic modification); GMOs-what they are not; impact of GMPs on Michigan sugar beets; historical beet factories in Michigan; industry progress; and upgrades to the Croswell production facility.

Chair Lauwers laid the following bill before the Committee.

HB 4408 (Crawford)                      Health occupations; veterinarians; veterinarian continuing education requirement; modify, and include veterinary technicians.

Representatives Crawford and Vaupel reviewed the provisions of the bill with the Committee. Representative Vaupel introduced Julie Cappel, DVM, and Lori Penman, DVM, current Michigan Veterinary Medical Association Broad Members and Dr. Larry Letsche, who addressed the Committee regarding the bill and animal health issues. Topics reviewed included: leptospirosis; the back to nature view and public safety issues; ticks and disease; the Michigan Public Health Code and the Veterinary Practice Act; and LARA licensing and continuing education for various professions.

Dr. Averill, Michigan State Veterinarian, spoke to the Committee regarding the recent avian influenza virus outbreak and the impact in various states.

Subsequent to discussion, Chair Lauwers declared the meeting adjourned, the time being 11:52 a.m.

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Representative Dan Lauwers, Chair

Catherine Petroskey, Committee Clerk (517) 373-8538