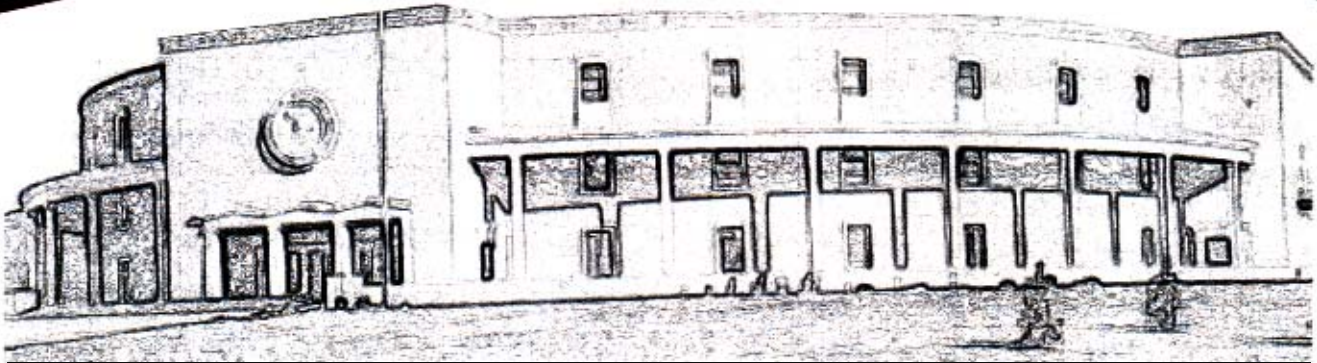


LEGISLEADER



47th Legislative Session - February 2, 2005 - Volume II

The *Legisleader* is the official legislative newsletter of the New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau...the state's largest and oldest agricultural organization. Farm Bureau...since 1917 a leader in New Mexico!

Spinning Around in the Hopper

Water, water everywhere and not a drop...well you know the quote but the state's precious water resources are the subject of many bills of the first 1,000 plus introduced to date.

Water Watch

Domestic Wells

Water User's Fee

Strategic Water Plan

Other Items We're Watching

An effort to amend the depredation law to not allow open kill permits.

A trapping bill that would ban trapping on public lands. This could also turn into an attempt at a constitutional amendment and associated referendum.

Wild horse bill. Would move wild horses from the control of the N.M. Livestock Board and create a separate wild horse commission.

Right to eat enchiladas - Relates to frivolous obesity lawsuits against restaurants.

HB 47, introduced by Rep Brian Moore-Removes cougars as a big game

47th Legislative Session - Jan. 18 - March 19, 2005

All Legislators - State Capitol Switch board - (505) 986-4300.

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N.M. Legislature homepage -
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N.M. Farm Bureau Website -
www.nmfb.org

species and returns it to predator status. FB supports. This bill is stirring up some folks as noted in a lengthy story on KRWG-FM Radio News in Las Cruces which mentioned Farm Bureau's backing of the bill and contained interviews with Rep. Moore, an animal rights representative and a spokesman for N.M. Game and Fish.

HB 78, introduced by Mimi Stewart-Allows the N.M. Dept. of Game and Fish to buy up land and water rights. FB opposes. The "habitat acquisition" would be paid for by a \$5 increase to all licences sold by the game department. Hunters and fishermen must be asking, "Where does it all end?" Those familiar with such legislation warn us to watch out for wild Trojan Horses out there in the habitat.

HB87, introduced by Rep. Nunez - An appropriation of \$80,000 from the general fund to go to NMSU for the control of pecan pests. HB 87 passed the House Agriculture and Water Resources Committee and was referred to the House Appropriation and Finance Committee.

HB91, introduced by Rep. Nunez - A personal or corporate tax credit not to exceed \$10,000 for irrigation and water management improvements approved by local Soil and Water Conservation Districts. HB91 passed the House Agriculture and Water Committee with an amendment to allow conserved water to be put to beneficial and consumptive use.

HB 158, introduced by Mary Helen Garcia-Requires home-school students to take required standard based academic performance tests. Also requires such students who do not demonstrate "adequate yearly progress" to attend a public or private school. Can you spell "Big Brother?"

HB 189, introduced by Rep. Brian Moore-This bill would strengthen the current trespass laws and would require written permission to hunt on private land and provides for confiscation of game and fish for violations. FB supports.

HB 195, introduced by Rep. Stell - Establishes a strategic water reserve to acquire and lease water for the purpose of complying with compact court decrees and the Endangered Species Act. Severance tax bonds would be the revenue source. HB 195 is currently in the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

SB 72, introduced by Sen. Steve Komadina-Would hold those responsible for wolf releases liable if a human and/or livestock are attacked. They might as well add dogs and cats and make it retroactive!

SB 77, Introduced by Sen. Ben Altamirano. Increases hunting fees. FB opposes.

SB 120, introduced by Rep. Cisneros - Once the State Engineer establishes a critical management area, a domestic well permit may be denied unless a water right is transferred. Critical management area is defined as an area inadequate to sustain the production of a well or where additional depletions occur, affecting compact requirements.

SB 252, introduced by Dede Feldman-This is the ATV bill that will require helmets for 18 and under, registration fees for ATVs. Includes an ag exemption on helmets but not registration. FB supports exemptions but not the new fees.

The Farm Bureau Image

A comprehensive advertising campaign for the N.M. Farm Bureau on the state's radio stations is now in its final stages. The ad campaign has several objectives including: Telling folks who we are, what we do and why agriculture is important in the Land of Enchantment. The spots will be in rotation on key stations during the 60-day legislative session. In Santa Fe you can hear the campaign on the 5,000 watt voice of northern New Mexico, Radio 81, KSWV or "Que Suave." Also they'll be on 77-KKOB, New Mexico's 50,000 watt "blowtorch." The theme of the campaign is "Farm Bureau....Since 1917.....A Leader In New Mexico.