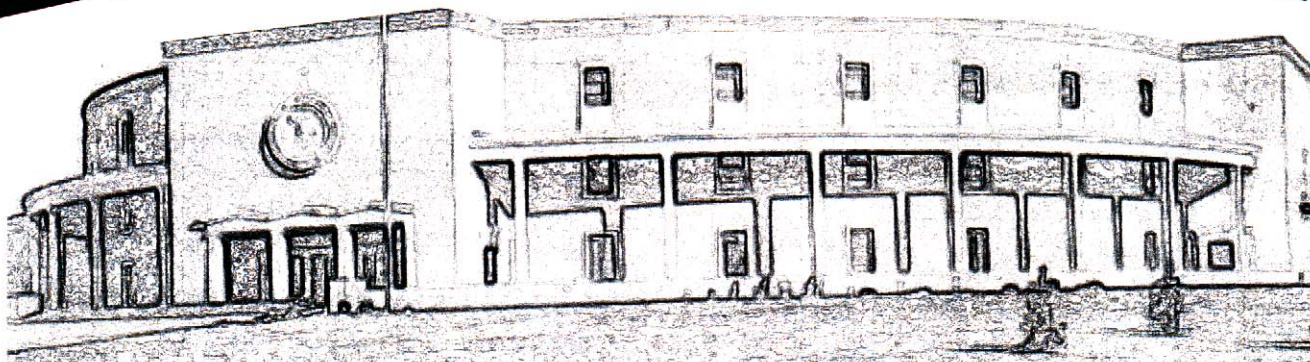


# LEGISLEADER



48th Legislative Session - February 12, 2007 - Volume VI

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!*

## Deadline to Introduce Legislation Quickly Approaching

With less than one week to go before the deadline (February 15th) to introduce legislation in the New Mexico Legislature, a total of 2270 bills have been introduced. The House of Representatives appears to be taking the lead in introducing legislation with a total of 1184 bills while the Senate has introduced 1086 bills. Out of the 1184 bills introduced by the House, 41 have made it through the process and are now on the Senate side for consideration. In the Senate, 25 have received approval and are now on the House side. Keep in mind the session ends at 12 p.m. on March 17th, St. Patrick's Day!

## Farm Bureau to Descend on Santa Fe

Don't forget to attend AgFest on February 15th, at 6 p.m. at the La Fonda Hotel. This legislative reception provides an opportunity for our legislators to visit with producers and to taste the wonderful beef, lamb and other agriculture products grown in this state. New Mexico dairy industry representatives will also be on hand to provide milk and ice cream!

Our annual legislative breakfast will be held at 7 a.m. on Feb. 15, also at the La Fonda Hotel. Representative Joseph Cervantes from

Las Cruces and Senator John Ryan from Albuquerque will be our guest speakers. Both legislators are carrying companion bills (HB 443 and SB 461) pertaining to water conservation for agriculture.

If at all possible, please make a visit to the Capitol and attend some committee meetings that day! It is always a blessing to have our producers present at the

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### 48th Legislative Session -

All Legislators - State Capitol Switchboard - (505) 986-4300.

State Land Office - (505) 827-5760.

Legislative Council Service - (505) 986-4600.

Office of the Governor (505) 476-2200.

N.M. Legislature homepage - [www.legis.state.nm.us/](http://www.legis.state.nm.us/)

N.M. Farm Bureau Website - [www.nmfarmbureau.org](http://www.nmfarmbureau.org).

## *Some Bills to Keep an Eye On*

With this session being tabbed the “Year of the Water,” by the governor, it is no surprise that much legislation has been introduced pertaining to the subject including legislation on water masters, water forfeiture, water conservation, and inter-basin transfers. Below is some of that legislation complete with summaries and sponsors. For more details on legislation, please log onto [www.legis.state.nm.us](http://www.legis.state.nm.us)

**HB 579:** Representative Cervantes: Only allows the State Engineer to appoint a water master when the majority of the water users in a district request it via written application.

**HB 662:** Representative Foley: Pertains to forfeiture of water rights that are not used beneficially by the owners. The legislation repeals the statute that addresses this, Section 72-5-28.

**HB 811:** Representative Ezzell: This legislation pertains to “carriage water” within the artesian conservancy district. When there is an improvement in the efficiency of the carriage or application, it will not result in a reduction of allowable diversion of water. The allotted current carriage loss is two acre-inches per year, per acre-foot (Section 73-1-27).

**SB 61:** Senator Neville: Al-

lows an irrigation district to operate a water bank for temporary re-allocation of water without having to go through formal proceedings before the State Engineer. Any water rights that are placed in the bank are not subject to forfeiture during the period of re-allocation. Water augmentation is the purpose of the legislation for the purpose of use by a district.

**JHM 11:** Representative Ezzell: This legislation is a result of recent action the State Engineer took pertaining to the Pecos Valley water files. The legislation states that the Engineer not transfer water rights files from the Roswell District to another location for the purpose of the WATERS database and requires the files be copied instead.

### **Border Affairs**

**HB 790:** Representative Foley: A new offense is created for the

“smuggling of persons” when an individual willingly transports or acquires transportation with the intent to hide those persons from the authorities.

**JHM 26:** Representative Steinborn: Creates an interim Border Security and Border Affairs Committee to study security and health to agriculture, ranching and environmental impacts. The legislation requires that a report with recommendations be presented to the legislature by January 2009.

**HM 15:** Representative Steinborn: Requests that Congress take immediate action to develop and implement a national immigrant worker program. It addresses national security and enforcement of criminal activity.

### **FARM BUREAU, CONT.**

#### **FROM P. 1**

Capitol, because after all, it is grassroots participation that forges our organization’s legislative policy.

Last week, members of the Torrance County Farm and Livestock Bureau Youth Group

visited the New Mexico Legislature. The group consists of children who are under 18 years of age, the age required to join the New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers group. They had the opportunity to attend some committees includ-

ing House Agriculture, Senate Conservation and Senate Public Affairs. While the kids were present, some eminent domain legislation was presented, giving them a great opportunity to observe the legislative process and witness representatives debate issues.