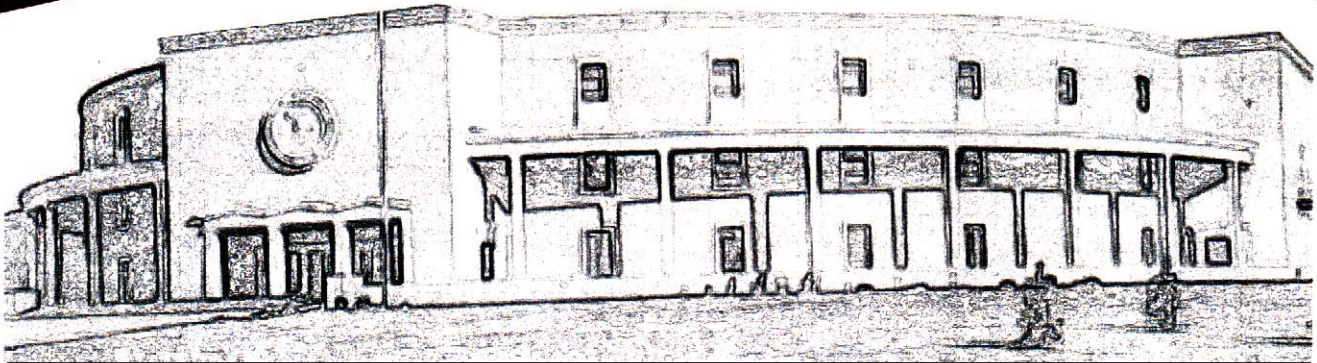


LEGISLEADER



48th Legislative Session - February 23, 2007 - Volume VII

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!*

Legislature in High Gear with Three Weeks Remaining in Session

By Cecilia Abeyta
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N.M. Farm and Livestock Bureau

With three weeks left in the 2007 Legislative session, the pace at the Capitol is picking up and legislators are working overtime to review as much legislation as possible. Although Farm Bureau does not support or agree with some legislation, I have a personal respect for those legislators who continue to work steadfast with an attitude of willingness and dedication. The political process is not an easy process nor is it perfect all the time. However, I do believe it is the best system in the world.

February 15th was the last day to introduce legislation and a total of 2847 bills were introduced this ses-

sion. The Senate has 1364 bills were introduced in the Senate and 1483 bills were introduced in the House.

Recently introduced legislation that Farm Bureau is paying close attention to includes:

HB 1278- Representative Ezzell: This legislation authorizes the Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) to purchase only water rights for the purpose of complying with Texas Compact requirements (in the past, the ISC has acquired land and water). In addition, it authorizes the ISC to sell any excess land and water rights, once the

Texas compact agreements are met. **Farm Bureau supports this legislation.**

CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE.

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/

N.M. Farm Bureau Website - www.nmfarmbureau.org.

This legislation passed the House Agriculture Committee with an emergency clause that requests it be put on a fast track through the legislative process.

HB 1282/SB 1187-Representative Thomas Garcia/Senator Richard Martinez: An exemption for stockmen from applying for a permit from the State Engineer for a livestock impoundment of 10 acre-feet or

less. The impoundment does not allow for a perennial or intermittent flow in the watercourse where the proposed impoundment and closest downstream surface water diversion exists.

The House version is scheduled for the House Consumers and Public Affairs and House Agriculture committees. The legislation passed the Senate Conservation committee and is

scheduled to go before the Senate Judiciary committee.

SJM 54-Senator Linda Lopez: The intent of this legislation is to protect agricultural resources through the creation of agriculture districts, limiting eminent domain powers and the use of conservation easements. This legislation is scheduled for Senate Rules and Conservation committee.

A Couple of Updates on Pending Legislation...

Representative Antonio Lujan: **HB 80**- Workers' Comp

The bill went before Business and Industry and was temporarily tabled so the sponsor could work with the agriculture industry to address the concerns of the legislation. At this time, the bill has not been rescheduled for a hearing nor has there been an attempt to address the concerns.

Representative Ben Lujan: **HB 759** and Senator Ben Altimirano: **SB 324**- Minimum Wage

Both of these bills went before the House Labor Committee. SB 324 was amended to reflect the Speakers bill HB 759. Both bills received a do pass and will now go before the House Business and Industry committee. As of today, they have not been put on the agenda.

To view the entire text of any bill, log on to <http://legis.state.nm.us/lcs/BillFinder.asp>.