COMMITTEE MINUTES for
AGRICULTURE

Date: March 17, 2008 **Place:** Rm 102, Supreme Court Consult Rm

Convened: 3/17/2008 2:15 PM **Recessed:** **Reconvened:** **Adjourned:** 3/17/2008 3:00 PM

Present: Representatives Mertz-CH, Whitaker-VC, Drake-RM, Davitt, De Boef, Dolecheck, Frevert, Gayman, Greiner, Huseman, Kuhn, Miller, H., Olson, S., Rayhons, Reasoner, Reichert, Swaim, Wenthe, Worthan, Zirkelbach

Absent: None

Excused: Representative Struyk

Chair Mertz called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Chair Mertz called for corrections, amendments, and/or deletions to the previous minutes. As there were none, the minutes were approved as written.

Chair Mertz introduced Representative Davitt, who in turn introduced the following speakers from the Wine and Grape Industry: Michael White, who is with ISU Extension; Ron Mark, Owner of Summerset Winery; and Dr. Murli Dharmadhikari, Director of the Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute. They presented data that was collected from the Alcoholic Beverages Division of the State of Iowa indicating that the number of wineries and gallons of wine produced in Iowa has increased considerably in the past five to seven years and they anticipated that the business will continue its growth increase, as well as develop improvement of grape quality in the future.

Following questions and answers, Chair Mertz thanked them for their presentation.

The following bill was assigned to subcommittee:
SF 2337 - Reichert, Chair; Dolecheck; and Wenthe.

As there was no further business to come before the Committee, Representative DeBoef moved to arise.

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Representative Dolores Mertz

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Donna Downey, Committee Secretary