COMMITTEE MINUTES for AGRICULTURE

Date:	February 23, 2009		Place:	Rm 102, Supreme Court Consult Rm		
Convened:	2/23/2009 3:15 PM	Recessed:	Reconve	ened:	Adjourned:	2/23/2009 4:15 PM

- **Present:** Representatives Mertz-CH, Marek-VC, Drake-RM, Bailey, Beard, Bell, Bukta, De Boef, Dolecheck, Frevert, Gayman, Huseman, Miller, H., Olson, S., Rayhons, Reasoner, Struyk, Sweeney, Wenthe, Worthan, Zirkelbach
- None Absent:
- **Excused:** None

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

As there were no corrections, amendments, and/or deletions to the February 18th meeting minutes, Chair Mertz approved the minutes as distributed.

The following bill was assigned to subcommittee: HF 246 - Mertz, Chair; Reasoner and Drake

Chair Mertz recognized Representative Marek who then introduced the guest speaker Tracy Blackmer, Director of On-Farm Network for the Iowa Soybean Association.

Blackmer informed the Committee about the process On-Farm Network uses to assist growers in managing nitrogen and explained its complexities as microorganisms change with application from one farm to another. The intent is to develop the right field conditions to improve yields and prevent the loss of nitrogen. Blackmer showed how aerial imagery can help detect and diagnose anomalies in crops.

As there were no further business to come before the Committee, Representative Bukta moved to arise.

Representative Dolores M. Mertz

Donna Downey, Committee Secretary