

COMMITTEE MINUTES for AGRICULTURE

Date: January 25, 2012

Place: Room 22

Convened: 1/25/2012
2:05 PM

Recessed:

Reconvened:

Adjourned: 1/25/2012
3:00 PM

Present: Senators Seng-CH, Fraise-VC, Black, Bowman, Courtney, Greiner, Hahn, Hancock, Houser, Kapucian, Kibbie, Rielly

Absent: None

Excused: Senator Johnson-RM

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm by Chairman Seng. Roll call was taken with all members present except Senator Johnson who was excused.

Jim Frederick, President, Conservation Districts of Iowa and Kelly Tobin, Chair, State Soil Conservation Committee were introduced. Mr. Frederick spoke on soil and water conservation issues and explained the benefits of strong natural resource funding in conserving our rapidly eroding topsoil. Mr. Tobin presented the recommended budget request presented to the Secretary of Agriculture to fund these programs noting Iowa has over 94% of its land in agricultural production but ranks 47th in the nation on conservation spending.

Steve Peterson, Biofuels Product Manager at Monsanto spoke on new developments in utilization of corn stover treated with quicklime to improve feed value and profit per head in cattle. New harvest methods also benefit soil and storage issues and require less labor. Genetic developments have added to the value per acre and require less water to yield more corn.

Senator Houser moved to arise at 3:00 pm.

Senator Dr. Joe M. Seng

Angie DePaepe, Committee Secretary