



Nebraska Grain Sorghum Board

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January 13, 2009

Senator Lavon Heidemann, Chairperson
Appropriations Committee
Nebraska State Legislature
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

Dear Senator Heidemann:

I am writing to report to your Committee actions to be implemented by the Nebraska Grain Sorghum Board pursuant to bills passed during the Special Session.

At the outset, I would like to offer the appreciation of the Grain Sorghum Board and commend the Appropriations Committee for their understanding, support and action to exclude the checkoff programs from the proposed transfer of check-off funds to the General Fund. The bold action of the Committee preserves the integrity of the commodity programs and retains the confidence of producers that the funds they pay are used only for those purposes provided for in statute. Thank You!

The expected impact on staffing to include the number and description of positions affected, whether the action to be taken involves layoffs, leaving positions vacant, furloughs, etc., and the dollar savings:

The Nebraska Grain Sorghum Board currently employs an Executive Director at .80 FTE. The Board does not anticipate change in staffing.

The expected impact on services provided to the public and/or agency functions. This can include both a reduction as well as the total elimination of services/functions.

Relative LB 1 - the reduction of the Board's base appropriation by 2.5% this fiscal year and 5% for the next fiscal year, the Board will make adjustments in contractual expenditures within the limits of the approved appropriation level. As a cash funded agency, the Board cannot spend money they don't have. Conversely, they cannot spend above the appropriations level. For this reason, the board carefully monitors expenditures and receipts to maintain the operating budget within the parameters of actual receipts and the appropriation level. The Board reviews receipts and expenditures at each meeting (4-6 times per year) and also conducts a mid-year budget review to assess receipts and expenditures.

LB2 made fund transfers to the General Fund. The Grain Sorghum Board had not funds that were transferred.

LB3 contained enabling legislation to authorize the transfer of funds to the General Fund. Again, this action had no affect on our agency.

Any foreseen impact on the receipt of federal funds as a result of matching, maintenance of effort, or other requirements.

While it is not anticipated, a reduction in the Board's appropriations level could constrain the Board's ability to support foreign market development programs and/or research initiatives that would otherwise leverage matching federal funds.

Whether fees used to support agency operations will be increased during this biennium to offset cash fund transfers to the General Fund. If so, indicate which fees will be increased, by how much, and the expected additional revenue.

Nebraska Grain Sorghum fees will not be increased.

Please contact our office if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

NEBRASKA GRAIN SORGHUM BOARD



Barbara Kliment, Executive Director

EC: Members of the Appropriations Committee:

Senator Danielle Conrad
Senator Tony Fulton
Senator Thomas Hansen
Senator John Harms
Senator Heath Mello
Senator John Nelson
Senator Jeremy Nordquist
Senator John Wightman

Jeanne Glenn, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
David Spatz, Budget Analyst, DAS
Members, Nebraska Grain Sorghum Board