

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0129

Agricultural innovations.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Zwonitzer, Dn., Blake,
Gilmore and Moniz and Senator(s) Geis

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to agriculture; establishing the
2 agricultural innovation account as specified; providing for
3 the administration of the account; creating the
4 agricultural innovation oversight committee; providing an
5 appropriation; and providing for an effective date.

6

7 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

8

9 **Section 1.** W.S. 9-12-114 is created to read:

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11 **9-12-114. Agricultural innovation account.**

12

13 (a) There is created an account known as the
14 "agricultural innovation account". Funds in the account
15 are continuously appropriated to the agricultural
16 innovation oversight committee created under subsection (b)

1 of this section and shall be expended as determined by the
2 committee to encourage agricultural innovations in the
3 marketplace. Earnings from funds in the account shall be
4 deposited into the account. Agricultural producers shall
5 be encouraged to test and evaluate new methods or
6 technologies that sustain agriculture as a viable industry
7 in their home communities or the state of Wyoming as a
8 whole. Funds may be utilized to support producers in
9 alternative crop production, livestock and breeding
10 programs, agricultural products development, methods or
11 techniques in production and other options or tools that
12 sustain agriculture in the marketplace. These funds may
13 also be utilized in promotion or marketing of innovative
14 programs to the agricultural community on behalf of the
15 agricultural innovation oversight committee.

16

17 (b) There is created the agricultural innovation
18 oversight committee. The committee shall consist of:

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20 (i) The director of the department of
21 agriculture or his designee;

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23 (ii) The chief executive officer of the Wyoming
24 business council or his designee;

1

2 (iii) One (1) person representing the Wyoming
3 board of agriculture appointed by the board of agriculture;

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5 (iv) The dean of the University of Wyoming
6 college of agriculture or his designee;

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8 (v) One (1) person representing livestock
9 interests appointed by the governor;

10

11 (vi) One (1) person representing farming
12 interests appointed by the governor.

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14 (c) The members of the committee who are appointed by
15 the board of agriculture or by the governor shall be
16 appointed for initial terms of two (2) years. Thereafter
17 those members, and all other members shall serve for terms
18 of four (4) years. Each appointed member shall be limited
19 to serving on the board for two (2) consecutive terms,
20 however, a member may be reappointed after a four (4) year
21 absence. Each member shall hold office until his successor
22 is appointed. Members may be removed as provided by W.S.
23 9-1-202.

24

1 (d) The chief executive officer of the Wyoming
2 business council or his designee shall serve as chair of
3 the committee. Each member of the committee not otherwise
4 in full-time employment with the state shall receive per
5 diem and travel expenses in the same manner and amount as
6 state employees while attending and traveling to and from
7 meetings of the committee. The fees and expenses of the
8 committee shall be paid from the funds within the account.

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10 (e) The committee shall review applications for
11 funding from the account. Any person may apply for an
12 award from the account for an innovative agricultural
13 practice as defined by Wyoming business council rule and
14 regulation. In no event shall any amount awarded to one
15 (1) person exceed thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) in
16 any one (1) calendar year.

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18 (f) The Wyoming business council shall staff the
19 committee and shall promulgate necessary rules and
20 regulations for the implementation and administration of
21 this section.

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23 **Section 2.** W.S. 9-2-1704(d) by creating a new
24 paragraph (xvii) is amended to read:

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2 **9-2-1704. Reorganization plan; structure; time frame.**

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4 (d) The entities of state government specified in
5 this subsection are designated as separate operating
6 agencies, which are separate and distinct from the
7 departments and offices specified in subsection (a) of this
8 section because of their quasi-judicial responsibility or
9 because of their unique, specialized function which
10 precludes their inclusion in another department. This act
11 does not otherwise apply to separate operating agencies.
12 Separate operating agencies are as follows:

13

14 (xvii) Agricultural innovation oversight
15 committee established under W.S. 9-12-114(b).

16

17 **Section 3.** There is appropriated four hundred
18 thousand dollars (\$400,000.00) from the general fund to the
19 account established in section 1 of this act. Any
20 unexpended monies in the account shall not revert but shall
21 remain in the account to be expended for the purposes
22 specified in this act.

23

1 **Section 4.** This act is effective July 1, 2009.

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(END)