

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0186

Agriculture production innovations.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Zwonitzer, Dn., Alden,
Buchanan, Diercks, Hammons, Harvey and
Warren and Senator(s) Meier and Peterson

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; providing an
4 appropriation; and providing for an effective date.

5

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

7

8 **Section 1.** W.S. 11-48-101 is created to read:

9

10 CHAPTER 48

11 AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION ACCOUNT

12

13 **11-48-101. Agricultural innovation account.**

14

15 (a) There is created an account known as the
16 "agricultural innovation account." Funds in the account

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

14

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

17

18 (i) The director of the department of
19 agriculture or his designee;

20

21 (ii) The director of the Wyoming business
22 council or his designee;

23

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

3

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

6

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

9

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

12

13 (c) The two (2) members of the committee appointed by
14 the governor shall be appointed for staggered terms of four
15 (4) years. Each appointed member shall be limited to
16 serving on the board for eight (8) consecutive years,
17 however, a member may be reappointed after a four (4) year
18 absence. Each member shall hold office until his successor
19 is appointed. The governor may remove any committee member
20 as provided by W.S. 9-1-202.

21

22 (d) The director of the department of agriculture or
23 his designee shall serve as chair of the committee. Each
24 member of the committee not otherwise in full-time

1 employment with the state shall receive per diem and travel
2 expenses in the same manner and amount as state employees
3 while attending and traveling to and from meetings of the
4 committee. The fees and expenses of the committee shall be
5 paid from the funds within the account.

6
7 (e) The committee shall review applications for
8 funding from the account. Any person may apply for an
9 award from the account for an innovative agricultural
10 practice as defined by department of agriculture rule and
11 regulation. In no event shall any amount awarded to one
12 (1) person exceed thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) in
13 any one (1) calendar year.

14
15 (f) The Wyoming business council shall staff the
16 committee and shall promulgate necessary rules and
17 regulations for the implementation and administration of
18 this act.

19
20 **Section 2.** There is appropriated three hundred
21 thousand dollars (\$300,000.00) from the general fund to the
22 account established in section 1 of this act. Any
23 unexpended monies in the account shall not revert but shall

1 remain in the account to be expended for the purposes
2 specified in this act.

3

4 **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2007.

5

6 (END)