

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0121

Agriculture production innovations.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Zwonitzer, Dn., Edmonds,  
Harvey, Petersen, Shepperson and Throne

## 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;

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

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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;

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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 or by the governor shall be appointed for  
16 staggered terms of four (4) years. Each appointed member  
17 shall be limited to serving on the board for eight (8)  
18 consecutive years, however, a member may be reappointed  
19 after a four (4) year absence. Each member shall hold  
20 office until his successor is appointed. Members may be  
21 removed as provided by W.S. 9-1-202.

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23 (d) The chief executive officer of the Wyoming  
24 business council or his designee shall serve as chair of

1 the committee. Each member of the committee not otherwise  
2 in full-time employment with the state shall receive per  
3 diem and travel expenses in the same manner and amount as  
4 state employees while attending and traveling to and from  
5 meetings of the committee. The fees and expenses of the  
6 committee shall be paid from the funds within the account.

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

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

20  
21 **Section 2.** W.S. 9-2-1704(d) by creating a new  
22 paragraph (xvii) is amended to read:

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24 **9-2-1704. Reorganization plan; structure; time frame.**

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

11

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

14

15 **Section 3.** There is appropriated three hundred  
16 thousand dollars (\$300,000.00) from the general fund to the  
17 account established in section 1 of this act. Any  
18 unexpended monies in the account shall not revert but shall  
19 remain in the account to be expended for the purposes  
20 specified in this act.

21

22 **Section 4.** This act is effective July 1, 2008.

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24

(END)