

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. 9-12-114 is created to read:

9

10 **9-12-114. Agricultural innovation account.**

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12 (a) There is created an account known as the
13 "agricultural innovation account." Funds in the account
14 shall be expended to encourage agricultural innovations in
15 the marketplace. Agricultural producers shall be encouraged
16 to test and evaluate new methods or technologies that

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

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

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15 (i) The director of the department of
16 agriculture or his designee;

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

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

23

1 (iv) The dean of the University of Wyoming
2 college of agriculture or his designee;

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4 (v) One (1) person representing livestock
5 interests appointed by the governor;

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7 (vi) One (1) person representing farming
8 interests appointed by the governor.

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

18

19 (d) The chief executive officer of the Wyoming
20 business council or his designee shall serve as chair of
21 the committee. Each member of the committee not otherwise
22 in full-time employment with the state shall receive per
23 diem and travel expenses in the same manner and amount as
24 state employees while attending and traveling to and from

1 meetings of the committee. The fees and expenses of the
2 committee shall be paid from the funds within the account.

3
4 (e) The committee shall review applications for
5 funding from the account. Any person may apply for an
6 award from the account for an innovative agricultural
7 practice as defined by Wyoming business council rule and
8 regulation. In no event shall any amount awarded to one
9 (1) person exceed thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) in
10 any one (1) calendar year.

11
12 (f) The Wyoming business council shall staff the
13 committee and shall promulgate necessary rules and
14 regulations for the implementation and administration of
15 this act.

16
17 **Section 2.** There is appropriated three hundred
18 thousand dollars (\$300,000.00) 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.

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