

Minutes

November 10, 2009

N. C. Board of Agriculture

Casey M. Armstrong

Kirk Mathis

Maurice K. Berry, Jr.

Elbert R. Pitt, Jr.

Jean J. Boseman

Larry Sampson

William F. Johnston

Douglas I. Torn

C. Osmond Kearney, Jr.

Jeffery B. Turner

Steve Troxler, Chairman

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Call to Order

Welcome New and Reappointed Board Members

Approve Minutes of April 8, 2009

Expand Imported Fire Ant Quarantine

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The November 10, 2009 Board of Agriculture meeting was held at 1:00 p.m. at the Senator Bob Martin Eastern North Carolina Agricultural Center in Williamston, North Carolina. Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler called the meeting to order, read the ethics reminder, and called upon Mr. Zane Hedgecock to begin the meeting with prayer. The following Board members were in attendance: Billy Johnston, Kirk Mathis, Maurice Berry, Bert Pitt, Jean Boseman, Larry Sampson, Casey Armstrong, and C. Osmond Kearney, Jr.

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Before taking up the agenda items, Commissioner Troxler welcomed new Board appointees Mrs. Casey Armstrong and Mr. Billy Johnston. Commissioner Troxler also welcomed reappointed Board members Kirk Mathis and Bert Pitt.

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The first item on the agenda was the approval of the minutes of the last Board meeting. Upon MOTION by Bert Pitt, seconded by Kirk Mathis, the minutes of the April 8, 2009 meeting were approved. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

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The second item before the board was a request from Plant Industry Division Director Gene Cross to expand the imported fire ant quarantine. Mr. Cross presented a map depicting the new area under quarantine, which would be expanded to full quarantines for eight (8) counties and partial quarantines for four (4) counties.

Mr. Kirk Mathis MOVED that the quarantine be adopted as presented and Mr. Kearney seconded that motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

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Sue Langdon presented a referendum request on behalf of the NC SweetPotato Commission. The SweetPotato Commission requested that the Board authorize it to conduct a referendum in January of 2010 to approve an assessment to be applied for a six year period beginning with crop year 2010. The referendum will be presented to grower/producers in the following counties: all counties in North Carolina east of Interstate 95 and the following counties west of Interstate 95: Chowan, Cumberland, Davidson-Davie, Guilford, Halifax, Harnett, Hertford, Hoke, Jones, Lee, Martin,

Montgomery, Moore, Orange, Richmond, Robeson, Scotland, Rockingham, Rutherford, Stokes, Vance, and Wake.

Mr. Bert Pitt MOVED that the referendum request be approved as presented, and that motion was seconded by Mr. Maurice Berry. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

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Mr. David McLeod presented a referendum request on behalf of the Corn Growers Association of North Carolina, as requested by their President, Mr. Charles Alexander. The Corn Growers sought approval to conduct their referendum in early 2010. The referendum would be held to seek the approval of corn growers to continue to assess themselves at a rate of ½ cent per bushel. The authorization is for a six (6) year period beginning with crop year 2010.

Mr. Billy Johnston MOVED that the referendum request be approved as presented, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Maurice Berry. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

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The Commissioner then called upon Mr. Ron Moore, Assistant Director of the Marketing Division, to present a request for rate changes at Department owned Farmers Markets and Agricultural Centers. Mr. Moore discussed the rationale for the request for the increase, including a directive by the General Assembly, an increase in visitor traffic at the facilities over recent years, the length of time since the last increase, and the need to support improvements and enhancements at the facilities.

Mr. Kirk Mathis MOVED that the rate change request be approved as presented, and that motion was seconded by Ms. Jean Boseman. After some discussion, the motion carried by unanimous vote.

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The Commissioner then called on Mr. Brian Long and Mr. Ray Starling to make impromptu remarks regarding the August 2009 Trade Mission to China. The Commissioner added his own remarks and praised the work of the Department's International Marketing team, headed by Mr. Peter Thornton, who organized the trip and who has continued to follow-up with contacts made during the mission. There are measurable outcomes from the trip, including increased sales of tobacco, cotton, and soybeans.

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Kirk Mathis mentioned that individuals involved in agriculture need to be concerned about federal energy legislation. The Commissioner called on Mr. Ray

Starling to offer comments on federal initiatives that the Department is involved in, including FDA regulations, environmental regulations, pesticide law changes, energy legislation, Clean Water Act amendments, and tobacco regulation developed by FDA. The Commissioner mentioned the nomination of Dr. Richard Reich to the FDA's Scientific Advisory Committee to oversee tobacco product registration.

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Bert Pitt moved that the meeting be adjourned, which MOTION was seconded by Mr. Larry Sampson. The motion carried by a unanimous vote and the meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

Recorded and Prepared by:  
Ray A. Starling

Adopted by the Board this 20<sup>th</sup> day  
of April, 2010.



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Steven W. Troxler  
Commissioner of Agriculture  
Chairman



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David S. McLeod  
Secretary