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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Archuleta ORIGINAL DATE 02/03/14
LAST UPDATED _____ HB 286

SHORT TITLE Boll Weevil and Pink Bollworm Monitoring SB _____

ANALYST Hartzler-Toon

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY14	FY15		
	\$100.0	recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: Section 4J Higher Education, New Mexico State University, New Mexico Department of Agriculture

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 286 appropriates \$100 thousand from the general fund to the New Mexico State University board of regents for the NMDA to perform monitoring services to assess the cotton boll weevil and pink bollworm control committees in Dona Ana, Luna, and Sierra Counties.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100 thousand contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY15 shall revert to the general fund.

NMDA reports that the \$100 thousand appropriation will help offset the loss of federal funds for both the boll weevil and pink bollworm pest control programs. The bill requires NMDA to contract with pest control committees in Dona Ana, Luna, and Sierra Counties to monitor the pest situation in these areas.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to NMDA,

Both pink bollworm and boll weevil are relatively recent pests in New Mexico cotton. Because of their significant negative impact on the profitability of cotton to the state, all cotton areas developed regional programs directed at the eradication of one or both pests. Over the past 13 years, New Mexico cotton growers and USDA have funded these programs. In 2010, USDA discontinued funding support for pink bollworm programs, and will discontinue funding support for boll weevil programs. Although the federal contribution had been the minority portion of total funding (30%), it was required for program success. Today, both pests are considered to be eradicated in the state. Possible reintroduction and reestablishment necessitates the continuation of survey programs in every cotton field in the state.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation limits activities to three counties, leaving cotton growing communities in other regions unable to be assisted with boll weevil and pink bollworm monitoring.

RELATIONSHIP

HB 286 relates to the General Appropriation Act (GAA) line-item for the NMDA.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

NMDA reports that without funding provided under HB 286, pest monitoring will fail to be sufficiently funded. Without sufficient monitoring, the likelihood of damage from undetected pest populations increases and possibly the reestablishment of both pests in New Mexico.

THT/jl