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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Harden DATE TYPED 02-09-05 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Clovis Agricultural Science Center SB 579

ANALYST Woods

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$362.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to the appropriation for New Mexico State University in the General Appropriations Act.

Relates to HB428, SC524

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico State University (NMSU), College of Agriculture and Home Economics (CAHE)
New Mexico Public Education Department (PED)

Responses Not Received From

New Mexico Commission on Higher Education (CHE)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 579 – Making an Appropriation for the Agriculture Science Center at Clovis – appropriates \$362,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University for expenditure in FY06 to enhance services and capability at the Agricultural Science Center at Clovis. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

Significant Issues:

NMSU-CAHE indicates that this bill provides for a conservation tillage specialist and an entomologist, along with support staff and operating funds, to address unique challenges to the agricultural industry in eastern New Mexico. Further, that agriculture is the economic mainstay of eastern New Mexico and accounts for 60 percent of the state's agricultural cash receipts.

NMSU-CAHE additionally observes that producers are confronted with a multitude of challenges, and additional work is needed to identify cropping and tillage systems that minimize the potential for wind and water erosion, while maximizing crop yields from natural precipitation and limited supplemental irrigation. Insect, disease and weed pests cause major production losses and federal standards for pesticide use limit the availability of pest control options.

NMSU-CAHE suggests that developments in conservation tillage practices and pest control alternatives are necessary to increase farm profitability and sustainability. Subsequent benefits will be the production of an abundant supply of grain and forage crops that are essential to the long-term success of the state's dairy industry. As a secondary benefit, this initiative will create a cadre of research and extension specialists in eastern New Mexico, who will be able to attract external (grant) funds, which will further strengthen the research and information delivery program.

This program is not included in the *CHE 2005-2006 Higher Education Funding Recommendation*.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

NMSU-CAHE indicates that the appropriation will be allocated as follows:

- Agricultural Experiment Station (\$223.6); and
- Cooperative Extension Service (\$138.4).

The appropriation of \$362,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund; and any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

NMSU will retain oversight of this project.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP OR RELATIONSHIP

Relates to the appropriation for New Mexico State University in the General Appropriations Act.

Relates to HB428 in that HB428 seeks to appropriate \$361,920 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University for expenditure in FY06 to fund faculty positions in water management, dairy production, soil sciences and general agronomy at the Agricultural Science Center at Clovis.

Relates to SC524 in that SC524 seeks to appropriate \$500,000 to purchase agricultural equip-

ment, including a storage barn, for the Agricultural Science Center of New Mexico State University in Clovis.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

PED reiterates that the Clovis Agricultural Science Center's work involves the development and evaluation of new and existing crops and cropping systems to increase agricultural profitability, and this bill would assist in developing a world-class agricultural research center to help New Mexico's agricultural producers in becoming more competitive in the global market by strengthening the existing program through the addition of:

- a conservation tillage specialist who would provide for efficient use of our limited water resources;
- an entomology specialist who would improve cultural management techniques and environmentally friendly control methods of the state's insect pests;
- three support staff that would include a research assistant and a farm laborer; and
- operational monies.

BFW/njw