

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FY 2009-10 JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE HEARING AGENDA**

**Monday, November 24, 2008
9:00 am – 10:30 am**

9:00-9:20 INTRODUCTIONS AND OPENING COMMENTS

9:20-9:35 QUESTIONS COMMON TO ALL DEPARTMENTS

1. What are your department's three top goals for the current year? How will they be achieved?
2. How do your requested decision items tie to your goals?
3. Could your department shift to a four day work week that begins on Wednesday and ends on Saturday? If not, why not? If only a portion of the department can go to a four day week, what portion can and what portion cannot and why?
4. Has your department been able to fill new or vacant positions? Can your department quantify the benefits it has seen as a result of adding additional FTE or filling vacant positions?
5. What is the status of your department's implementation of S.B.08-155, Centralize IT Management in OIT? Is your department experiencing any difficulties?

9:35-9:45 DEBT ON THE STATE FAIR EVENTS CENTER

6. The amount of debt repayment that the State Fair required to be paid off was structured, why then is there a delay in paying off the Events Center debt?
7. What is the estimated FY 2008-09 full-year operational deficiency of the State Fair? Also, what was the gate attendance levels of this year's State Fair and how does this compare historically? What was the revenue generated by this year's State Fair and how does this compare historically?

9:45:-10:05 ELIMINATION OF INDIRECT COST RECOVERY CAPS AND A PROGRAM SUBSIDY

8. Staff does not believe that the General Fund moneys supporting these programs are for the “common good” but rather the good for a specific industry. For each program addressed in this issue, what is the Department’s response?
9. Please describe the time cycles of when the various fees are collected by the Brand Board. If indirect cost recoveries caps are removed how will this affect fund balance and how fees are set?

10. Does the Department believe it is feasible to streamline the regulations on mandatory potato inspections so that potato growers/shippers whom have their own in-house quality control can be waived from requiring inspection?
11. Does the department agree or disagree that the inspection of Chemigation systems is a health and safety issue? Why or why not?
12. What is the Department's position related to staff's recommendation to remove the indirect cost recoveries for the four programs in question and the state subsidy for Mandatory Fruit and Vegetable Inspection?

10:05-10:30 DECISION ITEMS

Decision Item #1 (Geographic Information Systems FTE)

13. Has the Department sought guidance from other state agencies related to how to maximize this request, to avoid costs already incurred by other agencies in the support of GIS functions and seek to share existing resources for this position?

Decision Item #2 (Brand Board Fuel Increase) AND #4 (Measurement Standards Truck)

14. What would be the costs of converting the Brand Board fleet of vehicles and the Measurement Standards Truck request to natural gas? Please identify what is involved with such a conversion and any associated costs.

Decision Item #4 (Measurement Standards Truck)

15. Is it the intent of the Department to replace these measurement vehicles every three years with less than 100,000 miles?
16. Why does the annual maintenance of \$3,400 of the truck in question warrant the full replacement cost of the vehicle? Please justify why this out-of-cycle replacement vehicle

Decision Item #6 (Reorganization)

17. Are efficiencies being gained from this restructure? Please provide an evaluation of the improvements, benefits, operating efficiencies, and cost avoidance gained from this change.