

## MINUTES

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Meeting Jointly

Thursday, December 4, 2025

10:00 AM

Hot Springs Convention Center, 134 Convention Blvd, Rooms 208-209

Hot Springs, Arkansas

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Committee members present: Senators Ronald Caldwell, Chair, Steve Crowell, Jonathan Dismang, Ben Gilmore, Jamie Scott; Representatives Roger D. Lynch, Chair, Jeremiah Moore, Vice-Chair, Matt Brown, Cameron Cooper, Bruce Cozart, Denise Garner, Stephen Magie, Ron McNair, Chad Puryear, Marcus E. Richmond, and DeAnn Vaught

Other members present: Senators Bryan King, Fredrick Love, and Matt McKee; Representatives Howard Beaty, Denise Ennett, Jon Eubanks, Kenneth Ferguson, Steve Hollowell, Jack Ladyman, Jessie McGruder, Dwight Tosh, and Jeff Wardlaw

Senator Caldwell called the meeting to order.

### Welcome and Remarks

Dan Wright, President, Arkansas Farm Bureau, gave opening remarks and discussed the importance of today's topics.

### Update on Arkansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Heidi Banse, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, Arkansas State University, shared an update on the Arkansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine and a timeline for the program opening.

Dr. Heidi Banse, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, Arkansas State University, gave a brief update on the current Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy outbreak and how it will affect Arkansas.

### Discussion Regarding Illinois River Watershed

Evan Teague, Vice President of Environmental Issues, Arkansas Farm Bureau, led a discussion in regards to Illinois River Watershed.

### Other Business

The Committee heard from Employees from Tyson Foods and concerned farmers regarding the current court case in Oklahoma about the Northwest Arkansas watershed, and its impact on Arkansas Agriculture.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.