

ASSEMBLY AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

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FEBRUARY 1, 1975

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Hickey  
Mr. Price  
Mr. Jeffrey

MEMBERS ABSENT: (all excused)  
Mr. Getto  
Mr. Howard  
Dr. Robinson  
Mr. Coulter

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hickey at 1:45 p.m. in the Overton Community Center. There were about 15 concerned citizens in attendance. Chairman Hickey gave a brief summary on the Greenbelt Amendment and explained the legislative development of the program for implementation. A general discussions was held on the best description of a farm.

Several descriptions were given such as the federal government recognizes 5 acres as being a farm. One member suggested that a farm be determined by percentage of income that the farm contributes to the total income of the owner. It was noted that when getting started, especially, the percentage of income contributed the first few months is not very much and this definition would tend to discourage farming.

Someone else suggested that perhaps a farm should have to produce crops to be so defined, but someone else stated that some farms only grow crops for livestock and still others only have livestock.

One person offered the suggestion that farm land should be reclassified when this area is not being farmed as open space for the lower taxes, just while the land is not being worked for farming.

It was suggested that the committee talk to Douglas County Assessor Harry Winkleman, as over the years he has done an excellent job of giving fair and just assessments to farm areas.

Next to be discussed was the Dairy Commission. Several people complained that the Commission does not have the power to enforce the prices that the producer is receiving. It was stated that even though the price of milk had recently been raised, because of the alleged \$9.54/100 lbs. supposedly paid to the producer, the producers were not getting the \$9.54 in actuality. One man advised the committee that he was receiving approximately \$8.15/100 lbs.

Numerous complaints were given by the people that they felt that one large dairy controlled the Dairy Commission (Anderson Dairy was named).

It was suggested that the committee contact Earl Born, 441 E. Kentucky Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80222, and have him explain the federal marketing order for the Lake Mead area which covers Southern Nevada and Utah.

There were complaints that milk is being brought in from Colorado and that Utah is being called the point of origin. This milk is flooding the market. It was suggested that the committee contact Charles Cameron of Grand Junction, Colorado, who is director of the Lake Mead Co-op. It was stated that actually Lake Mead Co-op is flooding the market.

It was suggested that the committee get the minutes of the recent federal hearing held in Las Vegas on December 10 by the Department of Agriculture on milk.

There were several comments made on the Executive Secretary of the Commission as not being responsive to the needs of the producers or of the consumer.

Other remarks indicated that the Executive Secretary of the Commission had not been enforcing the laws.

A complaint was made on the zoning system used by the Highland Dairy Co-op to charge for the pick up of raw milk. One dairy producer only 6 miles from the plant has to pay \$.40/100 lbs.

Next, the people present stated that they wished to comment on the illegal alien bill. Several dairy men and producers expressed concern over AB-42 concerning the hiring of illegal aliens. They advised the committee that it was very difficult to get people to work in the agricultural community and that in many cases, aliens were the only help they could get.

One producer stated that he thought it was a very poor piece of legislation. Another producer said that he would rather have a state agency to handle the problem instead of the employer checking to see if the employee is an illegal alien.

Several people asked if the agricultural employers could be excluded from this act.

Chairman Hickey advised the people present that he would attempt to keep them informed from time to time of different legislation concerning their community.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.