

AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL OF INDIANA NEWSLETTER
Promoting Agribusiness Policy in Indiana
March 3, 2017

It's Halftime at the Indiana Statehouse

Wednesday marked the halfway point for the 2017 legislative session. Bills that failed to pass out of their originating chamber are considered “dead.” Surviving bills that are of ACI interest can be found at this [link](#).

Next week will bring a new round of committee hearings. Please note that each bill must be heard and voted on in committee before it is sent to the chamber for a vote. ***The last day for bills to be heard in committees is April 3.***

Below is the list of “Second Half” high priority ACI bills assigned to the Senate and House Agriculture Committees.

Senate Agriculture Committee, Key Bill Assignments:

HB 1234- Storage of Agricultural Ammonia; Sen. Leising (Sponsor)

HB 1235- Regulation of Processed Manure Based Fertilizer; Sen. Leising (Sponsor)

HB 1237- Grain Buyers and Warehouse Licensing; Sens. Leising and Boots (Sponsors)

House Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, Key Bill Assignments:

SB 282- Spay-Neuter Program; Rep. Baird (Sponsor)

SB 294- Bovine Tuberculosis Testing; Rep. Lehe (Sponsor)

SB 476- Grain Buyers and Warehouse Licensing; Rep. Baird (Sponsor)

Scheduling of the above bills will be announced soon.

In Other News

Four Bills You Should Know More About:

HB 1234- Storage of Agricultural Ammonia

Provides for the regulation by the state chemist of farmer-owned facilities that store ammonia or ammonia solutions.

HB 1235- Regulation of Processed Manure Based Fertilizer

Requires the state chemist to adopt rules regulating the distribution of manure based fertilizer.

SB 90- Doing Business or Marketing as a Cooperative

Provides that it is unlawful for a business entity that is not a cooperative or mutual entity to use the term “cooperative” or “co-op” in its business name if it is misleading, or advertise to its customers that it is a cooperative.

SB 421- Above Ground Storage Tanks

Repeals the law requiring owners of certain above ground storage tanks to register their tanks with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

Concurrent Meeting of House and Senate Agricultural Committees

On Monday, March 6, the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the House Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development will have a joint meeting to hear a presentation from Purdue University regarding its study on local ordinances and their impact on agriculture.

Updated Key Dates for the 2017 General Assembly

April 3-House & Senate Bills Committee Report Deadline

April 5- House & Senate Bills Second Reading Deadline

April 6- House & Senate Bills Third Reading Deadline

April 21- Anticipated Sine Die

Indiana Pesticide Review Board

The Indiana Pesticide Review Board (IPRB) met this Thursday for its 149th meeting. The committee discussed a variety of topics, but three points of note were the CCH program, the status of proposed OISC regulations, and the Indiana Pollinator Protection Plan.

The online Continuing Certification Hours program is underway. The Office of the Indiana State Chemist (OISC) mainly described the operating procedures for the IPRB. The online CCH program will require the training providers to account for their attendees, similar to how offline CCH providers currently operate. The OISC will evaluate providers annually for further approval and program content.

The OISC’s proposed regulation for dicamba-based herbicides and exemptions for disinfectant users are both currently awaiting approval from the Indiana Office of Management & Budget. According to the OISC, the proposed regulation for dicamba-based herbicides would be stricter than current federal regulations. ACI will continue to monitor these two proposed regulations as they continue through the state rulemaking process.

The IPRB reviewed the OISC's proposal to protect Indiana's bees. The Indiana Pollinator Protection Plan intends to protect all pollinators, not just managed pollinators. Representatives from the OISC remarked that the State should not see aggressive regulation from the Environmental Protection Agency regarding pollinators. Instead, the IPRB should expect a gradual change in EPA policy. Further, best management practices were discussed and eventually adopted by the Board. The OISC intends to educate stakeholders, but expressed concern that there was no current metric to measure the impact of these practices. The Board decided not to adopt an evaluation method but may amend the plan should a definitive metric be developed.

To review all bills ACI is tracking, click here: [Link](#).

To read the full text of this session's bills, click here: [Link](#).

Full calendars can be found at the following links: [House Calendar](#) & [Senate Calendar](#).

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