

May 1, 2009

The 2009 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature convened on Monday, April 27. One of the most pressing matters with regards to agriculture is **SB 283 by Sen. Walsworth** which amends the "Louisiana Mega-Project Development Fund" to allow for the purchase of the Pilgrim's Pride poultry plant in Farmerville with state assistance by Foster Farms. This bill was heard in the Senate Finance Committee and reported favorably on Tuesday and passed the Senate by a vote of 31 to 3 on Wednesday. It has now been referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

**HB 5 by Rep. Guinn** provides for sales and use tax exemptions for crawfish bait and feed. This bill was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee and will be heard on Tuesday, May 5. LFBF supports this bill.

**HB 90 by Rep. Ligi** amends the crime of cruelty to animals. This bill was referred to the House Committee on House Administration of Criminal Justice but no hearing has been scheduled.

**HB 155 by Rep. Hardee** amends the definition of negligent injury and negligent homicide to include attacks by dogs or other animals. This bill was referred to the House Committee on House Administration of Criminal Justice but no hearing has been scheduled.

**HB 158 by Rep. Anders** provides relative to drought relief wells. This bill was referred to House Natural Resources and Environment Committee and will be heard on Tuesday, May 5. LFBF supports this bill.

**HB 191 by Rep. Dove** provides relative to selection of a biologist by the Oyster Lease Damage Board. This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment but no hearing is scheduled.

**HB 234 by Rep. Dove** provides relative to the appeals procedure for decisions under the Scenic Rivers Act. This bill was heard on Wednesday, April 29 by the House Natural Resources and Environment Committee but was not reported favorably.

**HB 303 by Rep. Greene** authorizes wind and solar energy tax credit to apply to commercial or business property. This bill was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee but no hearing has been scheduled.

**HB 408 by Rep. Anders** revises the duties and powers of forestry officers. This bill was referred to the House Agriculture Committee and scheduled for hearing Thursday, May 6.

**HB 410 by Rep. Badon** authorizes the taking of certain quadrupeds destroying crawfish. This bill was reported favorably from the House Natural Resources and Environment Committee and went to the floor of the House.

**HB 439 by Rep. Ellington** requires country of origin labeling in retail and food service establishments for catfish products. This bill was referred to the House Committee on Agriculture and is scheduled for hearing on Thursday, May 6.

**HB 454 by Rep. Simon** creates a statutory lien to secure the right of a farmer to crops planted on the land of another. This bill was referred to the House Committee on Civil Law but no hearing has been scheduled.

**HB 456 by Rep. Downs** requires the tax on gasoline, diesel fuels, and special fuels to be adjusted annually in accordance with the Consumer Price Index. This bill was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee and was not reported favorably.

**HB 473 by Rep. Little** authorizes state sales and use tax exemption for certain commercial farm irrigation equipment. This bill was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee but no hearing is scheduled.

**HB 538 by Rep. Anders** provides relative to the Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority. This bill was referred to the House Committee on Agriculture and is scheduled for hearing Thursday, May 6.

**HB 679 by Rep. Tucker** authorizes the levy of a tax on motor fuels by a local governmental subdivision subject to voter approval. This bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means but no hearing has been scheduled.

**HB 739 by Rep. Little** excludes the sale, lease, or rental of agricultural airplanes from state and local sales and use tax. This bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means but no hearing has been scheduled.

**SB 31 by Sen. Adley** provides with respect to the penalty for the unnecessary unjustified causing of physical pain, suffering or death of an animal. The bill was referred to Senate Judiciary Committee C but no hearing has been scheduled.

**SB 126 by Sen. Thompson** provides relative to transportation and release of animal and prohibits importation or release of feral hogs. This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources but no hearing is scheduled.

**SB 154 by Sen. Thompson** abolishes the State Market Commission and Farm Youth Loan Program and makes changes to various boards, commissions and offices within the Department of Agriculture and Forestry. This bill was referred to the Senate Agriculture Committee and will be heard Wednesday, May 5 at 9:00 a.m.

**SB 266 by Sen. Thompson** increases the portion of the severance tax on timber allocated to the Forestry Productivity Fund, from seventy-five percent to one-hundred percent. This bill was referred to the Senate Finance Committee but no hearing is scheduled.