



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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2006 Agency-Request Legislation

March 31, 2006

Three agency-request bills were considered and passed by the 2006 Legislature and signed by the Governor.

SB 6371 -- Dead Animal Disposal

Revises RCW 16.68.020 to allow for appropriate, realistic routine disposal options for livestock producers that protect animal and human health and the environment.

- Replaces the term “animal” with “livestock,” to more clearly and narrowly apply the law.
- Clarifies that only livestock found dead from an unknown cause is presumed to have died of disease.
- Provides specific rulemaking authority for prescribing the time frame and methods of disposal of livestock that die because of disease.
- Lists disposal methods that may be prescribed, including burial, composting, incinerating, landfilling, natural decomposition or rendering.

SSB 6365 -- Weights and Measures Program Fees

Increases fees that provide funding for inspecting commercial weighing and measuring devices, including gas pumps and small scales, typically used in grocery stores and other retail businesses. The bill will generate an estimated \$269,000 in the first year and about \$483,000 annually starting in the second year, allowing WSDA to add five field staff and gain the capacity to inspect 67,600 weighing and measuring devices once every 28 months. The registration fee for gas pumps and small scales, which make up 92% of registered devices, increases from \$5.00 to \$7.50, effective July 1, 2006, then from \$7.50 to \$10.00, effective July 1, 2007.

SHB 2917 -- Accessory Uses on Agricultural Lands (*Governor’s Land Use Agenda*)

Clarifies that small-scale activities that provide supplemental income for farmers are allowed on designated agricultural lands of long-term significance while protecting farmers and farmland. Clarifies that an accessory use can be non-agricultural and that any accessory use that a city or county may allow on designated agricultural lands must not interfere with and must support continuation of the overall agricultural use of the property and neighboring properties. The bill provides policy guideposts, requiring any nonagricultural accessory use to be consistent with the size, scale, and intensity of the agricultural use of the property, be located within the general area already developed, and not convert more than one acre of land.

For more information, check the WSDA Web site or contact **Jeff Canaan**, Assistant to the Director, (360) 902-1918.