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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Moore DATE TYPED 02/16/05 HB 603

SHORT TITLE NMSU Tucumcari Agricultural Center Programs SB _____

ANALYST Woods

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$414.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to the appropriation for New Mexico State University in the General Appropriations Act.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

No Responses Received From

New Mexico Commission on Higher Education (CHE)
New Mexico State University (NMSU)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 603 – Making an Appropriation to Enhance the Research and Education Programs at the New Mexico State University Agricultural Science Center at Tucumcari – appropriates \$413,888 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University for expenditure in FY06 to enhance research and education programs relating to water conservation and rangeland ecology at the Agricultural Science Center at Tucumcari to be spent in the following amounts by the following organizations:

- \$275,616 to the agricultural experiment station; and
- \$138,272 to the cooperative extension service.

Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

Significant Issues

The NMSU Agricultural Science Center at Tucumcari Center was originally part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Dryland Field Station network and has been in continuous operation since 1912. Operation of the center was transferred to NMSU in 1949 and research on irrigated agriculture was initiated in 1952 when surface water for irrigation became available from the Arch Hurley Conservancy District.

An advisory committee of farmers, ranchers, and business people meets with center personnel on an annual basis to review ongoing projects and to provide direction for future research. Irrigated pasture grazing trials are a large portion of the center's research effort. A variety of small plot studies are used to evaluate annual and perennial forages (grasses and legumes) for local adaptation and performance. Cultivar performance evaluations are conducted on alfalfa, corn, sorghums, cotton, and other crops. The center is actively involved in monitoring cotton boll weevil populations in the local area. Center personnel are involved in the local introduction of microscopic mites for biological control of field bindweed. Research projects are showcased at an Annual Field Day that is held in early August.

The Tucumcari Bull Test, which encourages beef herd improvement by the use of performance tested bulls, has been an integral part of the center's activities since 1961. Since its inception, this annual testing program, has evaluated approximately 5,000 bulls for gainability and other measures of production efficiency. A Performance Tested Bull Sale is held annually on the third Friday in March.

This project is not included in CHE's *2005-2006 Higher Education Funding Recommendation*.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$413,888 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

NMSU would retain administrative oversight of this program.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to the appropriation for New Mexico State University in the General Appropriations Act.

BFW/lg