

## LEGISLATIVE BILL 561

Approved by the Governor May 29, 1987

Introduced by R. Johnson, 34; Moore, 24; Morehead, 30;  
Coordsen, 32; Wesely, 26

AN ACT relating to agriculture; to amend sections 2-3801 and 2-3804, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943; to provide for the establishment of an agriculture promotion and development program; to provide powers and duties for the Department of Agriculture and the University of Nebraska; to define and redefine terms; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. The Department of Agriculture shall establish an agriculture promotion and development program. The department shall employ a program director and one specialist in research techniques and market development. Both individuals shall report directly to the Director of Agriculture.

The University of Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources shall employ a poultry pathologist.

The program shall concentrate on the identification and development of opportunities to enhance profitability in agriculture and to stimulate agriculture-related economic development. Program activities may include, but not be limited to, (1) promotion and market development, (2) value-added processing of alternative and traditional commodities, (3) agricultural diversification, including poultry development and aquaculture, (4) agricultural cooperatives, and (5) alternative crops.

In order to carry out the purposes of this section, the program director may, if he or she deems necessary, convene an advisory committee to assist the program director in developing and implementing program activities. Representatives from the Nebraska Food Processing Center, the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Nebraska, the commodity boards, the Department of Economic Development, the United States Department of Agriculture grant programs, and the private sector may serve on such committee at the request of the program director. If an advisory

committee is convened, committee members shall not receive any reimbursement for expenses.

The Department of Agriculture shall serve as the facilitator, coordinator, and catalyst for developments through and with the Nebraska Food Processing Center, the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Nebraska, the commodity boards, the Department of Economic Development, other state agencies, the United States Department of Agriculture grant programs, and the private sector. It is the intent of the Legislature that the department foster close working relationships between production agriculture and existing programs for the purposes of agricultural development and promotion. The department may enter into such contracts as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

For purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise requires, private sector shall include, but not be limited to, representatives of food industry associations, lenders, or venture capital groups.

Sec. 2. That section 2-3801, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, be amended to read as follows:

2-3801. Sections 2-3801 to ~~2-3811~~ 2-3812 and section 4 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the Nebraska Agricultural Products Marketing Act.

Sec. 3. That section 2-3804, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, be amended to read as follows:

2-3804. Agricultural product or commodity shall include all products resulting from the conduct of farming or ranching activities, dairying, beekeeping, aquaculture, poultry or egg production, or comparable activities, and any byproducts resulting from such activities.

Sec. 4. Aquaculture shall mean the agricultural practice of controlled propagation and cultivation of aquatic plants or animals for commercial purposes. Unless the context otherwise requires, the term agriculture shall be construed to include aquaculture.

Sec. 5. The Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Nebraska shall employ one person who has experience and knowledge in the area of aquaculture as defined in section 4 of this act.

Sec. 6. That original sections 2-3801 and 2-3804, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, are repealed.