

**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT REPORT**

**RE: Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and Boll Weevil Eradication Commission
Maintenance and Inspection Fees (LAC 7:XV.301, 303, 321)**

This report is submitted electronically to the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Senate and House Committees on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture and Rural Development, in accordance with R.S. 49:968 regarding the intent of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the Louisiana Horticulture Commission to take the proposed action with regard to the above cited rule.

I. THE PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed rule amends LAC 7: XV.301, 303 and 321 by reducing the amount of the maintenance inspection fee (the fee for the inspection and certification of cotton for the presence of the boll weevil) paid by cotton producers to \$5.00 per acre from the previous fee of \$6.00 per acre.

II. THE REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

Current cotton commodity prices are the lowest seen in over ten years causing economic hardship by significantly reducing farm income for cotton producers. The proposed action will provide cotton producers in the state of Louisiana some relief during a time of economic hardship by reducing the input costs necessary to produce a cotton crop while maintaining or increasing the state's cotton acreage, thus preserving the infrastructure necessary to serve the cotton industry in Louisiana while maintaining the integrity of the boll weevil eradication program.

III. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

The proposed action is authorized R.S. 3:1604.1, which gives the Boll Weevil Eradication Commission ("Commission") the authority to adopt rules and regulations concerning the boll weevil eradication program, R.S. 3:1609, which gives the Commission the authority to adopt rules and regulations concerning participation in eradication programs, and R.S. 3:1652 and 1655, which provide the authority to assess fees to defray the costs of inspections for commodities.

IV. ATTACHMENTS

- A. The proposed action coded with any new rule or language underscored and with language to be deleted from an existing rule in struck-through type.
- B. A copy of the fiscal and economic impact statement approved by the Legislative Fiscal Office.
- C. A copy of the Notice of Intent filed with the State Register.



Marc Bordelon, Director, Boll Weevil Eradication Commission

7/7/16

Date of Signature