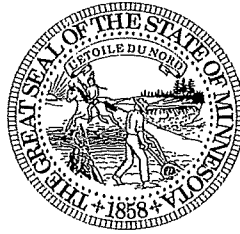


STATE OF MINNESOTA



TIM WALZ
GOVERNOR

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Jim Vagts

RECEIVED

12640 241st Avenue
Harmony, MN 55939
County of Fillmore
Congressional District 1

MAR 16 2020

President of the Senate

Because of the special trust and confidence I have in your integrity, judgment, and ability, I have appointed and commissioned you to have and to hold the office of:

Livestock Producer Member

BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH

Effective: March 17, 2020

Term Expires: January 2, 2023

This appointment carries with it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol in the City of Saint Paul, March 12, 2020.



Governor

Secretary of State

Replacing: Peter Ripka

Application for the position Livestock Producers

Part I: Position Sought

Agency Name: Board Of Animal Health
Position: Livestock Producers

Part II: Applicant Information

Name: Jim Vagts
Phone: (507) 696-3069
County: Fillmore
Mn House District: 28B
US House District: 1
Recommended by the Appointing Authority: True

Part III: Appending Documentation

Cover Letter and Resume

Type File Type

Additional Documents (.doc, .docx, .pdf, .txt)

Type	File Name
No additional documents found.	

Part V: Signature

Signature: Jim Vagts
Date: 11/26/2019 2:14:35 PM

RECEIVED

MAR 16 2020

President of the Senate

Nelson, Madelyn (GOV)

From: Jim Vagts <djvagts@acegroup.cc>
Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 9:48 PM
To: Nelson, Madelyn (GOV)
Subject: Bio

This message may be from an external email source.

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James Vagts
12640 241st Ave
Harmony, MN 55939
507-696-3069

RECEIVED

MAR 16 2020

President of the Senate

Madelyn Nelson
Executive Aide to General Counsel

Dear Ms Nelson:

I am grateful for this opportunity to introduce myself: My name is Jim Vagts and I have lived my entire life in Southeastern Minnesota, born into a farm family and where I graduated high school. In 1965, I graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture from the University of Minnesota and then taught vocational agriculture in Ashby, MN. I returned to the family farm in 1967, as a fourth-generation farmer. Some of the farmland has been in my family since the 1870's. The farm operation was diversified with crops and livestock. I have grown corn, soybeans, oats, alfalfa and limited acres of wheat, popcorn and sweetcorn on my 1400 acre farm. In addition, I managed a diversified livestock operation: dairy, hogs, beef cattle and sheep. I developed a farrow to finish hog operation selling 3,000 head/year. I maintained a 250 cow/calf herd of beef cattle running on rotational pasture and would purchase and feed out to fat market weight, an additional 600 to 800 feeder calves per year. My wife and children operated a 150 head flock of sheep raising the lambs out to market weight. I practice minimum and no-till on the all my crop acres and the majority of highly erosive land and waterways are enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). I have done considerable work on permanent wildlife habitat and planted many thousand trees on my land the last 15 years.

My worldview is informed by the values and economics of living in a rural setting, as well as a developed understanding of the complexity and influence the global farming economy has on today's agricultural industry. I have always strived both on and off the farm, to better the land and local economy through endeavors of creating new economic markets, enhancing natural resources and involving myself in community organizations. An example of effort made to contribute to a local diversified economy, include my involvement in promoting one of the first ethanol plants in the state-Pro-Corn, Preston, MN. I worked with the state legislature and community leaders to enhance this grassroots endeavor. To fund the plant, I worked long and hard to raise capital by soliciting investments from neighbors, friends and the local community. As an active traveler and outdoorsman, I continue to meet people, places and things that raise my

awareness to the ever-present need to embrace change and new solutions. I am an active life member of Pheasants Forever.

Agriculture continues to play an incredibly important role in not only feeding the world, but in creating a diversified local economy that considers all peoples needs and perspectives. Several years ago, the Minnesota agricultural community was faced with a serious livestock disease with the outbreak of bovine TB in northwest Minnesota cattle herds and in the wild deer population. Minnesota agricultural officials, the Minnesota DNR and the USDA worked together cooperatively and managed to effectively eradicate the disease from the area. That was a successful strategy that needs to be the norm, not the exception. In more recent years there seems to be a lack of cooperation between government agencies when dealing with new disease outbreaks such as the bird flu and CWD. I believe I can bring a cooperative strategy and new perspective to the board going forward.

My application to serve as a board member on the Minnesota Board of Animal Health is grounded in my lived experience and knowledge of how healthy environments directly relate to quality of life. The agriculture industry is rapidly changing and faces global supply and demand challenges and bio-security threats that require knowledgeable, science-based and thoughtful attention. The increasing threat of Chronic Wasting Disease and African swine fever are existential threats to Minnesota's agricultural and outdoor recreational industry. This board will play a critical role in determining positive outcomes. It is my firm belief, based on experience, education and passion, that I would bring a reasoned, knowledge-based voice and a willingness to embrace new ideas, to collaboratively work to address/resolve the formative issues that presently face this governing body.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Jim Vagts

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MAR 16 2020

President of the Senate