

Approved: February 12, 2009

Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Powell at 3:30 p.m. on January 28, 2009, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Mike Corrigan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Pat Matzek, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Norm Jennings, Chairman, Kansas Grape and Wine Industry Advisory Council

Others attending:

See attached list.

Norm Jennings, Chairman, Kansas Grape and Wine Industry Advisory Council, spoke on the progress made by the Kansas Grape and Wine Industry Advisory Council since its inception in 2004 (Attachment 1).

Some high points of the presentation were:

- Currently, there are 22 licensed farm wineries and eight farm winery outlets in the state of Kansas. Some are in the beginning phases of development.
- In 2009, Kansas State University received a specialty crop block grant from the Department of Agriculture to provide educational opportunities. Highland Community College in Wamego is offering courses in enology and viticulture.
- At the Kansas State Fair, the grape stomp has become a popular event. Last year was the first year fair-goers could purchase an unopened bottle of wine at the State Fair to take home with them.
- This year the Council is seeking additional statutory changes that will help Kansas wineries add value to and market their wines, and to encourage tourism. One of the recommended changes is to allow farm wineries to sell at farmers' markets.

At the conclusion of the presentation, questions were asked and comments were made by members of the Committee.

Chairman Powell requested Committee members to review, for approval, minutes of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee dated January 13, 14, and 15, 2009.

Representative Hayzlett made a motion to adopt the meeting minutes. Representative Svaty seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Representative Lukert made a motion to adopt a bill on a scholarship program for the Veterinary School of Medicine, Kansas State University in Manhattan. Representative Fund seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

AG. & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: 1-28-09

NAME	REPRESENTING
Nick Duncan member grape & wine	Advisory Board
Spencer Duncan	capitol connection ks
Norman Jennings	Grape & wine Adv. Council
CJ Cotsoyadis	KDA
Jessica Bowser	KDA
J. J. Jones	Commerce.
Philip Bradley	KUBA

**Report of the
Kansas Grape and Wine Industry Advisory Council to
House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee**

**by Norm Jennings
Chairman
Kansas Grape and Wine Industry Advisory Council**

January 28, 2009

Good afternoon, Chairman Powell and members of the committee. I am Norm Jennings, owner, grape grower and winemaker from Smoky Hill Vineyards & Winery near Salina. I am pleased to be here today to report on progress made by Kansas Grape and Wine Industry Advisory Council.

The council is a statutory body (K.S.A. 74-552-74-553) that began meeting in 2004. The group discusses ways to help the grape and wine industry grow. The nine-member council brings together individuals from the commercial grape growing industry, the licensed farm winery industry, the liquor industry, the tourism industry, the college of agriculture at Kansas State University and a member of the public with experience in marketing.

Currently there are 22 licensed farm wineries and eight farm winery outlets in the state. In 2006, Kansas Agricultural Statistics reported there were 320 acres of grapes in the state. The U.S. Department of Agriculture will release the 2007 U.S. Census of Agriculture on February 4, 2009, and it will include updated grape acreage data. When the council became active in 2004, there were approximately seven wineries and a little more than 100 acres of grapes.

This year, Kansas State University received a specialty crop block grant from the Kansas Department of Agriculture to provide educational opportunities and support to grape growers and winemakers throughout the state. Highland Community College is offering courses in enology and viticulture and has plans to open an educational and research vineyard in the future. Students at Washburn University are researching factors that impact the Kansas grape and wine industry. The additional higher education interest will provide valuable data.

The Kansas State Fair continues to be a popular venue to promote Kansas wine. For the fifth straight year, the Department of Agriculture and Department of Commerce co-hosted the People's Choice Wine Judging and Grape Stomp, an event that grows in popularity every year. Several Kansas wineries compete in the wine judging event, and a Kansas grape grower provides grapes for the grape stomp. Attendance was high again this year, even with rain. This was the first year that fairgoers could purchase a bottle of Kansas wine at fair, and several bottles were sold.

This year the council is seeking additional statutory changes that will help Kansas wineries add value to and market their wines, and to encourage tourism. The first item the council recommends is to allow farm wineries to sell at farmers' markets. The second recommendation is to amend the manufacturer's license law to allow a farm winery license to have the option to be issued a manufacturer's license. The final recommendation is to allow production facilities at each winery outlet.

The council has been working with the director of the Kansas Department of Revenue's Alcoholic Beverage Control and with grape and wine industry representatives to reach agreement on exceptions to the Kansas law that requires 60 percent of a product used to make Kansas wine to be grown in Kansas. Crop-damaging events like frost, drought and spray drift do occur and they are out of the grape grower's control. These events can cause total crop loss.

The Kansas grape and wine industry continues to grow. The industry continues to apply for grants to help with research and marketing, and to identify efficiencies in wineries and vineyards. The council continues to provide much needed support for legislative initiatives, research, education and marketing to stimulate tourism and sustainable, value-added and environmentally responsible agriculture.

Thank you for your time. I will be happy to answer questions.