

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The joint meeting with the Senate Agriculture Committee and the Senate Natural Resources Committee was called to order by Chairman Larry Powell at 8:30 a.m. on January 25, 2011, in Room 783 in the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Michael Peterson - Excused

Committee staff present:

Sean Ostrow, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Kay Scarlett, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dr. Gary M. Pierzynski, Interim Dean of the College of Agriculture, and Interim Director, K-State Research and Extension

Mercedes Taylor-Puckett, Coordinator of the Farmers Market Project, Kansas Rural Center

Others attending:

See attached list.

Senator Mark Taddiken, Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, and Senator Ralph Ostmeyer, Chairman of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, joined the Chairman in welcoming Dr. Gary M. Pierzynski.

Dr. Gary M. Pierzynski, Interim Dean of the College of Agriculture, and Interim Director, K-State Research and Extension, provided an overview of K-State Research and Extension's Annual Report. He highlighted various activities and accomplishments and how K-State Research and Extension has benefited Kansas families, youth, ranchers, the military, farmers, and communities. Topics included:

- Kansas Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Alternative Crops; (Attachment 1)
- 100th anniversary of the Department of Grain Science and Industry;
- Biosecurity Research Institute and the future National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility;
- Kansas Military 4-H Club Partnership;
- Kansas Operation: Military Kids;
- Flint Hills Fire Management;
- Kansas PRIDE Program;
- Efforts to Slow Reservoir Sedimentation; and
- Stripe Rust Disease in Wheat.

Headquartered in Manhattan, K-State Research and Extension includes statewide county and district extension offices, research centers, and experiment fields supported by county, state, federal, and private funds. Since 1991, any two or more Kansas counties can legally work together to form an extension district in an effort to increase efficiency and effectiveness. He reported that, currently, 33 counties have formed thirteen districts. Copies of the Annual Report and further information about their programs are available from K-State Research and Extension at Kansas State University.

Following adjournment of the joint meeting, Dr. Pierzynski answered further questions from members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

Chris Wilson, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, requested introduction of a committee bill concerning flex accounts in regard to water allocation. Without objection, Chairman Powell stated that this request would be introduced as a committee bill.

Mercedes Taylor-Puckett, Coordinator of the Farmers Market Project, Kansas Rural Center, briefed the committee on Kansas farmers markets. She reported that Kansas has experienced a dramatic increase

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee at 8:30 a.m. On January 25, 2011, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

in farmers markets; in 1987, Kansas had 26 farmers markets, today that number is 101 markets statewide. Similar statistics are demonstrated nationally. The United States Department of Agriculture estimates that these markets generate more than \$1.3 billion in consumer spending each year. Farmers markets are business incubators, providing growers a built-in customer base, low start-up costs, and the ability to sell smaller quantities. She noted that many farmers markets now participate in programs that target low income individuals and partner with food pantries to glean excess produce. (Attachment 2)

Paul Johnson, Kansas Rural Center, distributed copies of a brochure from the Rolling Prairie Farmers Alliance, a seasonal produce subscription service, providing a weekly seasonal vegetable subscription service to 300 households in Lawrence and Kansas City. (Attachment 3)

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m. The next meeting of the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee is scheduled for January 26, 2011.

SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
HOUSE AG & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
GUEST LIST

DATE: JANUARY 25, 2011

NAME	REPRESENTING
Paul Johnson	KS. Rural Center
Tom Bruno	Bruno + Assoc.
Mike Bram	KS Lusk Assn.
John Donley	KS Lusk Assn.
Sue Olsen	IC-STATE
Sarah Green	KDA
Melissa Ward	Hart Law Firm
Heshie Kaufman	KS Coop Council
Carole Jordan	KS Commerce
Steven Graham	ICSH
Gary Pierzynski	"
Ernie Minton	"
Don Devlin	"
BRAD HARRELSON	KFB
VERNE SHIRK	WESTAR
Paul Graves	KDA
SEAN HICK	CAPITO STRATEGIES



Kansas Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Alternative Crops

Our First 10 Years: 2001-2010

KCSAAC Enabling Legislation

KSA 76-4, 103 – "...Functions and duties of the center of excellence on sustainable agriculture and alternative crops shall include but not be limited to:

- Emphasizing research, education, outreach and marketing for sustainable agriculture and alternative food, fiber and medicinal crops.
- Assisting farmers increase their share of the food system dollar.
- Collecting and analyzing basic information on the Kansas food system and opportunities for production and direct marketing.
- Focusing research on value added processes and new crops that offer low-volume, high margin niche opportunities.
- Assisting small farmers to access lower input costs through a delivery system with expanded access to sustainable agricultural practices.
- Marketing assistance to promote products produced and processed in Kansas.
- Expanding small farm research to include: Organic products; less capital intensive investments; energy saving technology; and agricultural practices that reduce soil erosion and restore soil health.
- Developing and distributing a guide of all state services for small farms and value added agriculture...."



Since 2001 KCSAAC has:

Facilitated and/or assisted with the development of grant proposals that have resulted in more than \$4.4 million of funding for alternative crop and sustainable agriculture practices -- a \$6 return on investment. Here's a sample of funded projects:



- Grow Your Farmers' Market
- Helping Families Make Sound Business Decisions
- 4-State Cropping Systems Workshop
- Prairie Hay Market Research
- Guided Exploration of Value Added Enterprises
- Post Harvest Handling and Production Facilities for Horticulture Crops
- Comparing Organic and Conventional Fertilization Methods for Cut Flower Production in Haygrove High Tunnels
- Business Planning and Coaching for Kansas Farmers
- Commodity Partnerships for Risk Management Education
- Helping Farm Families Manage Successful Businesses
- Training for Organic Farming and Ranching in the Great Plains

Continued on back

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Attachment 1

KCSAAC 10 YEAR REPORT 2001-2010

Since 2001 KCSAAC has:

Continued...

Sponsored more than 50 farm tours and on-farm workshops focusing on such topics as:

- Low Stress Animal Handling
- Forages to Extend the Grazing Season
- Integrated Management Strategies for Sustainable Cropping Systems
- Farmer/Rancher Grant Writing
- Healthy Foods, Healthy Farms
- Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program
- Improving Your Financial Skills
- Organic Producers School
- Kansas Sustainable Agriculture Conference
- Great Plains Vegetable Conference and High Tunnels Workshop

- Kansas Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)
- North Central Region SARE
- Kansas Department of Commerce
- Kansas Department of Agriculture
- Kansas Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment (KCARE)
- Growing Growers Program
- Kansas Organic Producers
- Kansas Farmers Union
- Kansas Cattlemen's Association
- Tallgrass Legacy Alliance
- Small Business Development Centers
- Kansas Conservation Districts

Collaborated with more than 25 state and regional agencies, organizations, and programs on outreach and education activities including the grants and workshops listed previously. Collaborators include:

- Kansas Graziers Association
- Kansas Rural Center

Produced the Kansas Family Farmer and Rancher Resources and Services Guide. More than 8,000 copies of the first and second editions have been distributed across the state. Third edition will be available in 2011.

2010 and Plans for 2011

Projects and activities with KCSAAC involvement from 2010 include:

- Kansas SARE Professional Development Program
- Organic Transition Training for NRCS
- Water and the Future of Kansas Conference
- Kansas Sustainable Agriculture Conference: Connecting Cows, Carbon, & Carrots
- Kansas Family Farmer and Rancher Resources and Services Guide – 3rd Edition



2010 Sustainable Ag Conference

Plans for 2011...

KCSAAC plans to provide assistance with:

- Beginning Farmer Conference, co-sponsored by Kansas and Nebraska SARE and the Center for Rural Affairs
- Organic Transition Training for NRCS and Extension educators
- Good Agricultural Practices (GAPS) Training
- National Association of County Agricultural Agents Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conferences
- Farmers Market Conference



Kansas Farmers Markets

House Committee on Agriculture and National Resources

January 25, 2011

Chairman Powell and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to brief you on Kansas Farmers Markets. My name is Mercedes Taylor-Puckett, Coordinator of the Farmers Market Project for the Kansas Rural Center.

Background on Kansas Farmers Markets

Kansas has experienced a dramatic increase in farmers markets over the past twenty-four years. In 1987, the first year markets were surveyed, Kansas was home to 26 farmers markets. Today that number has almost quadrupled to the current census of 101 markets statewide.

Similar statistics are demonstrated nationally. In 1994, there were approximately 1,755 farmers markets in the United States. By 2010 their numbers had more than tripled — to more than 6,130. In excess of 3 million consumers shop and more than 100,000 farmers sell at these markets annually. The United States Department of Agriculture estimates that these markets generate more than \$1.3 billion in consumer spending each year.

Kansas Farmers Markets: Growing Healthy Farms, Families and Communities

A farmers market is like a three-legged stool. One leg being the farmer, one the consumer and the other is the community and all three legs are in equal proportions and balanced.

Growing Local Farms

Farmers markets are business incubators, providing growers a built in customer base, low start-up costs, and the ability to sell smaller quantities. And unlike other outlets, markets allow vendors to obtain retail prices for their goods. The instant feedback received from consumers at markets permits farmers to respond to trends and seize opportunities to develop new products or change their product mix. The consumer interactions also enable vendors to promote their products and any additional farm ventures, such as agritourism operations (U-Pick, farm stands, etc...) One of the most valuable resources a market provides its vendors, especial those new to the business, is a network of farmers with experience in production and marketing.

Growing Healthy Families

Farmers markets are asset to families seeking affordable, healthy foods. Obesity rates for adults (28.2%) and children (16.2%) are trending upward. Obesity is single biggest health problem confronting the Kansas in terms of what it costs the state in shortened lives, unnecessary disease and preventable medical costs. Farmers markets provide Kansans with a diverse product mix of fresh fruits and vegetables, meats and value-added products.

Farmers markets participate in programs that target those most at risk of food insecurity. The 2010 Kansas Senior Farmers Market Program provided 5,700 low-income seniors with \$30 vouchers to purchase Kansas-grown fruit and vegetables. Thirteen farmers markets in Kansas are now equipped to accept SNAP benefits and in 2010 markets processed 995 Vision Card transactions totaling \$16,357. (Markets also had 617 debit transactions totaling \$17,464.) Incentive programs, such as the Beens&Greens in the Kansas City area, offer to double the value of SNAP and SFMNP expenditures at market and have shown to substantially boost redemption at participating markets.

And finally, many markets and farmers have partnered with food pantries to glean excess produce. One example is the Society of St. Andrew West, based in Kansas City. In 2009, the group's 600 volunteers collected more than 100,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables in Kansas and Missouri. This produced was distributed at emergency food centers and providing families with healthy and fresh food.

Growing Healthy Communities

One of the most significant impacts a market can have is to strengthen the social fabric of a community. Markets bring residents together, creating vibrant public spaces and nurturing a sense of community

among residents. A farmers market brings together people of diverse cultural backgrounds, a variety of ages and all levels of economic scale.

Markets often collaborate on events with community groups. The Ft. Scott Farmers Market hosted a Ride-Safe event with the town's police department; officers taught children bicycle safety skills and distributed free helmets. Other markets have teamed-up with fire departments, often bring along a fire truck and equipment, to provide community safety training. Many markets develop partnerships with local businesses and agencies, such as restaurant and county extension offices, to provide cooking demonstrations, samplings, and food safety information.

Kansas farmers markets draw crowds of shoppers each market day. Some markets perform hourly customer counts or do Rapid Market Assessments. While this is great for farmers, it is also a benefit for local businesses. The customer appeal of farmers markets spills into the surrounding area, bringing foot traffic and sales to shops and businesses around markets too. Many communities recognize this and are hosting their markets in downtowns, as a revitalization tool, and in shopping districts to encourage spillover traffic. In the past two years, the number of communities requesting assistance to start markets has doubled.

And dollars spent at farmers markets are more likely to remain in the community. Researchers have documented that of every \$100 spent at a grocery store, \$25 remains in the community. If that same \$100 is spent at a farmers market, \$62 is retained locally.

Farmers markets are also about bringing farms and consumers together. Developing direct relationships between shoppers and farmers is the best way to teach consumers about the challenges and rewards of agriculture.

Kansas farmers markets are an asset to our state. They provide direct marketers of locally raised fruits, vegetables, meats and dairy products with sales outlets. They provide our families a source of healthy, Kansas-raised foods. And they enrich our communities both socially and economically. I will be happy to stand for questions.

Nutrition Programs

Kansas Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program: <http://www.kdheks.gov/sfmnp/>

Kansas Farmers Market EBT Program: <http://www.ksfarmersmarkets.org/news/using-your-vision-card-at-the-farmers-market>

Beans&Greens Incentive Program: <http://www.ksfarmersmarkets.org/news/the-kansas-city-beansgreens-program-makes-healthy-produce-more-accessible-and-affordable-for-sn?v=producers>

Market Gleaning: <http://www.ksfarmersmarkets.org/news/sosa-west-seeks-to-partner-with-growers-in-2010-growing-season?v=producers>

Affordability of Farmers Market Products

Iowa: <http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/pubs/staff/prices.html>

Seattle: <http://www.seattlefarmersmarkets.org/ripe-n-ready/are-the-farmers-markets-really-more-expensive>

Southwest Kansas

Dodge City Farmers Market
Garden City Farmers Market
LaCrosse Farmers Market
Lakin Farmers Market
Leoti Farmers Market
Liberal Community Farmers Market
Meade Farmers Market

South Central Kansas

Anthony Farmers Market
Ark City Farm & Art Market
Burns Farmers Market
Central Park Farmers Market
Cheney Farmers Market
Delano Community Farmers Market
Derby Farmers Market
Doyle Valley Farmers Market
El Dorado Farmers Market
Florence Farmers Market
Harper County Farmers Market
Harvey County Farmers' Market
Haysville Hometown Market
Hesston Farmers Market
Hillsboro Farmers Market
Kansas Grown Farmers Market
Lyons Farmers Market
McPherson Farmers Market
Medicine River Market
Old Town Farmers Market
Red Barn Farm and Art Market
Reno County Farmers Market
St. John Farmers Market
Valley Center Farmers Market
Walnut Valley Farmers Market
Wellington Farmers Market
Yoder Farmers Market

savor the
season



North Central Kansas

Abilene Farmers Market
Belleville Farmers Market
Clay Center Farmers Market
Clifton Farmers Market
Clyde Farmers Market
Concordia Farmers' Market
Frankfort Farmers Market
Hanover Farmers Market
Natoma Farmers Market
Russell Area Farmers Market
Salina Farmers Market
Smith County Farmers Market
Solomon Valley Farmers Market
Washington Farmers Market

Southeast Kansas

Allen County Farmers Market
Burlington Farmers Market
Chanute Farmers Market
Coffeyville Farmers' Market
Erie Farmers Market
Farmers Market Inc. in Historic Independence
Fredonia Farmers Market
Ft. Scott Farmers Market
Garnett Farmers Market
Girard Farmers Market
Lebo Farmers Market
Parsons Farmers Market
Pittsburg Farmers Market
Strong City Farmers Market

Northwest Kansas

Goodland Farmers' Market
Hays Area Farmers' Market
Norton County Farmers' Market
Oberlin Farmers' Market
St. Francis Farmers' Market

Northeast Kansas

Atchison Farmers Market
Auburn Farmers Market
Blue Valley Recreation Farmers Market
Burlingame Farmers Market
Capitol Midweek Farmers Market
Cottin's Hardware Farmers Market
Downtown Manhattan Farmers Market
Downtown Topeka Farmers Market
Effingham Farmers Market
Emporia Farmers Market
Fresh Promises Farmers Market
Gardner Farmers Market
Jackson County Farmers Market
Johnson County Community College
Junction City Farmers Market
Juniper Gardens Farmers Market
KCK Green Market
Lawrence Farmers Market
Leavenworth Farmers Market
Marysville Farmers Market
Merriam Farmers Market
Monday Market @ your library
Olathe Farmers Market
One Nineteen Green Market
Ottawa Farmers Market
Overland Park Farmers Market
Paola Farmers Market
Perry Lecompton Farmers Market
Rosedale Farmers Market
Sabetha Farmers' Market
Seneca Community Farmers Market
Shawnee Farmers Market
Spring Hill Farmers Market
St. Mary's Farmers Market

SITE COORDINATORS

Please mail your subscription form to the site coordinator for the site you choose.

LAWRENCE REGULAR BAG
COMMUNITY MERCANTILE
9TH & IOWA

MONDAYS 4:00-6:30 PM

Coordinator: Bob Lominska, 1954 Union Rd, Lawrence, KS
66044, (785) 842-5697, rlominska@wildblue.net

LAWRENCE ECONOMY BAG
LOCAL BURGER
714 VERMONT

THURSDAYS 4:00-6:00 PM

Coordinator: Paul Johnson, 3960 Ridge Dr., Perry KS 66073
(785) 597-5858, pdjohnson@wildflower.net

JOHNSON CTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
HORTICULTURE SCIENCE CENTER
WEDNESDAYS 4:00-6:00 PM

Coordinator: Stu Shafer, 3213 Buck Creek Rd, Oskaloosa KS,
66066 (785) 691-5006, sandheron@rollingprairie.net

ROELAND PARK COMMUNITY CENTER
4850 ROSEWOOD DRIVE
WEDNESDAYS 4:30-6:30 PM

Coordinator: Paul Conway, 25476 183rd St., Leavenworth, KS
66048 (913) 775-2559, pconway@wildblue.net

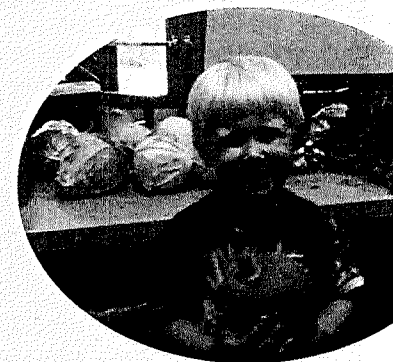


ROLLING PRAIRIE FARMERS ALLIANCE

2011

ROLLING PRAIRIE FARMERS ALLIANCE

SEASONAL PRODUCE SUBSCRIPTION
SERVICE



House Ag & Natural Resources
January 25, 2011
Attachment 3

From the farmer to you,
directly

Rolling Prairie is the oldest Midwest vegetable cooperative. The original group of farmers joined together in 1994, providing a vegetable subscription service to Lawrence and Kansas City. Over 300 households receive a weekly bag of locally grown produce during the growing season. While not all of our farms are currently certified organic, we still follow the same natural, ecologically sustainable, organic practices for growing food we have used since we started seventeen years ago.

Website: <http://www.rollingprairie.net>

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Every week during the growing season (usually May through October) we deliver a bag of freshly harvested produce to you. You choose which of our four pick-up sites is best for you. The regular bag (at the Community Mercantile, JCCC, and Roeland Park Community Center) typically includes portions of 6-8 produce items and is good for a household of 3-4 people. The economy bag (at Local Burger in Lawrence only) includes smaller portions of 5-7 items, appropriate for smaller households. We offer a discount on the purchase of two weekly bags. There are usually several choices of seasonal items (say, between carrots and beets, or between summer squash and cucumbers). All the produce is washed and bunched. We encourage you to bring your own reusable bag each week.

Subscribers pay a deposit to secure their share for the season. New subscribers pay \$10 more in their deposit, which gets them a copy of Nancy O'Connor's *Rolling Prairie Cookbook*. The deposit covers some of our administrative expenses, but the rest is credited toward your last three weeks of the season.

WHAT ABOUT VACATIONS?

Members can cancel twice per season without paying for those bags, provided they give 3 days advance notice for their vacation days. If you must miss more than that, we suggest you have a friend or family member pick up your bag.

If you forget to come and pick up your produce, we will try to donate your share to a local charity. We *must still charge you for the produce we bring for you.*

WHY AN ALLIANCE?

As a cooperative, we benefit from different conditions on different farms. If one farm gets frosted, flooded, hailed out, or dried up, chances are the others can take up the slack. We become more efficient in marketing, which leaves us more time to work on growing food ecologically.

2011 ROLLING PRAIRIE MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please read the following. If you agree, sign and mail the completed form with your deposit check made out to Rolling Prairie to the Site Coordinator for the site where you choose to pick up your bag (addresses on reverse side of this brochure). New subscribers pay a \$85 deposit and receive a copy of our Rolling Prairie cookbook. Previous subscribers pay a deposit of \$75.

I have read the information on the Rolling Prairie web page and understand that I am responsible for picking up my bag each week. I understand the price of each weekly bag is \$17 (\$14 for the economy bag at Local Burger) including sales tax, or \$32 for two regular bag shares, \$28 for two economy bag shares. I also understand that I will be billed monthly with payment due on the first pickup each month. I also understand that my membership is not activated until the site coordinator receives my deposit check. I understand that the equivalent of three weeks' bags will be applied towards my last bill, with the remainder to cover a portion of the operating expenses of Rolling Prairie Farmers Alliance.

Name _____

Which pick up site would you like to use?

Street _____

Are you a returning member? _____

City, St, Zip _____

How many weekly shares? 1 regular: \$17 2 regular: \$32
1 economy (Lawrence only): \$14 2 economy: \$26

Email _____

How did you hear about Rolling Prairie?

Home phone _____

For Lawrence area subscribers:

Would you like to participate in the Early Bag (mid-April until first regular pick-up in May)? _____

Other phone (cell? work?) _____

The Late Bag (last regular pick-up until the end of Nov.)? _____

Signature _____

Note: Early Bag and Late Bag are regular bags (\$17 per week)

Comments or questions?
