

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Johnson at 3:30 p.m. on January 10, 2001, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Miller - excused

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes Office
Kay Scarlett, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Doug Wareham, Kansas Grain and Feed Association
Jamie Clover Adams, Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture
Dr. Marc Johnson, Dean, College of Agriculture, Kansas State University
Dr. Elizabeth Boyle, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist, Meats, Kansas State University
Mitch Tuinstra, Department of Agronomy, Kansas State University
Dr. William Hargrove, Director, Kansas Center for Ag Resources and the Environment, K-State
Jana Beckman, Coordinator, Ks Center for Sustainable Agriculture & Alternative Crops, K-State
Dan Nagengast, Kansas Rural Center

Others attending: See attached list

Chairman Johnson opened the first meeting of the House Agriculture Committee of the 2001 Legislative Session by asking all committee members to introduce themselves.

The Chairman welcomed everyone and expressed the hope that the committee would work together in an atmosphere of cooperation on agricultural issues. Committee Rules, as well as Rules for Conferees appearing before the Committee, were reviewed.

Doug Wareham, Kansas Grain and Feed Association, extended an invitation to all committee members to attend the Ag Information & Technology Tour 2001 on Thursday, January 18. ([Attachment 1](#))

Jamie Clover Adams, Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, provided a copy of a letter to the United States Environmental Protection Agency dated January 2, 2001, submitted on behalf of the State of Kansas by the Kansas Department of Agriculture and the Kansas State Conservation Commission addressing cost estimates for the non-point component of TMDL implementation in Kansas. ([Attachment 2](#))

Secretary Clover Adams presented the Kansas Department of Agriculture's annual legislative report providing an overview of the department and its various programs. ([Attachment 3](#))

Dr. Marc Johnson, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Director of K-State Research and Extension at Kansas State University, reviewed recent accomplishments in the four core mission areas of Youth, Family, and Community Development; Food Nutrition, Health, and Safety; Natural Resources and Environmental Management; and Agricultural Industry Competitiveness.

Dr. Elizabeth Boyle, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist, Meats, Kansas State University, provided a summary of HACCP, food safety and value-added support programs and assistance that K-State, in cooperation with the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing, and USDA, has provided to small Kansas meat processing plants. She noted that in her position at K-State she works closely with

small and very small state and federally inspected meat and poultry processing businesses. ([Attachment 4](#))

CONTINUATION SHEET

Mitch Tuinstra, Department of Agronomy at Kansas State University, reviewed Kansas State University's Sorghum Breeding Program. He highlighted several specific program objectives at the university to increase yield potential and market value of sorghum: Development of Food-Grade Sorghum Hybrids; Breeding for Increased Yield Potential and Feed Quality; Enhanced Seedling Vigor and Cold Tolerance; and Improved Stalk Quality and Disease Resistance. ([Attachment 5](#))

Dr. William Hargrove, Director, Kansas Center for Ag Resources and the Environment at Kansas State University, reported on the establishment of a Kansas Center for Sustainable Agriculture & Alternative Crops at Kansas State University in response to legislation passed by the 2000 Legislature. The mission of the Center is to support small family-owned farms in Kansas through research, education and outreach focused on production, storage, processing, and marketing technologies that will boost small farm profitability, protect natural resources, and enhance rural communities. ([Attachment 6](#))

Jana Beckman started work on January 2, 2001, as Coordinator of the Kansas Center for Sustainable Agriculture & Alternative Crops. She outlined the role of the Center and highlighted several current projects. ([Attachment 7](#))

Dan Nagengast, Kansas Rural Center, spoke of the cooperation between K-State Research and Extension and the Kansas Rural Center in addressing small family farm concerns. He would like to see more state money made available for small family farm issues.

Dean Marc Johnson reviewed the Sericea Lespedeza Management and Control Project at Kansas State University. He reported that Kansas State University, in cooperation with the Kansas Department of Agriculture, other state and federal agencies, and producer and environmental groups, organized the Multi-State Sericea Lespedeza Work Group in July, 2000. The Work Group includes similar groups in Missouri, Nebraska, and Oklahoma to coordinate research and educational efforts. ([Attachment 8](#))

On motion of Representative Dahl, the committee voted unanimously to send a letter to ConAgra encouraging them to reconstruct their processing facility in Finney County that was destroyed by fire last month. ([Attachment 9](#))

Jamie Clover Adams, Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, requested the introduction of three committee bills. Her first bill request would address several areas in the weights and measures law that need to be cleaned up for more effective and efficient administration of the program. ([Attachment 3, page 26](#)) The second bill request would establish a permanent laboratory equipment fee fund. ([Attachment 3, page 28](#)) The Secretary's third request would establish a plant pest emergency response fund. ([Attachment 3, page 30](#)) Representative Freeborn moved to introduce three committee bills addressing these issues. Seconded by Representative Hutchins, the motion passed.

Representative Schwartz moved to introduce a committee bill to extend and modify the Ag Production Loan Program also known as the "linked deposit" low interest loan program. Seconded by Representative Light, the motion carried.

Representative Dahl moved to introduce as a committee bill the Governor's Vision 21st Century Initiative water policy proposal. Seconded by Representative Schwartz, the motion carried.

Representative Dahl moved to introduce as a committee bill the Governor's Vision 21st Century Initiative recommendation to establish a value-added research and development center at Kansas State University. Seconded by Representative Compton, the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2001.