

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Morris at 10:00 a.m. on February 14, 2000, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Christine Downey (E)

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Jill Wolters, Revisor of Statutes
Nancy Kippes, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Mary Fund, Communications Director, Kansas Rural Center
Dr. Joe Hendrixson, Executive Director, Kansas Ecumenical Ministries
Bill Fuller, Associate Director, Public Affairs Division, Kansas Farm Bureau

Others attending: (See Attached)

Continued hearing on:

SB 534 - establishing a center of excellence on sustainable agriculture and alternative crops at Kansas State University

Mary Fund, Communications Director, Kansas Rural Center, testified in support of **SB 534**, stating that although lacking in detail as to how this center would fit into the existing framework of research and education they do support the concept ([Attachment 1](#)).

Dr. Joe Hendrixson, Executive Director, Kansas Ecumenical Ministries, testified in support of **SB 534**, stating that there is a need for more research on the ways in which alternative products and methods play out in the characteristic Kansas geography and weather, or in the local, regional, and global food systems ([Attachment 2](#)).

Bill Fuller, Associate Director, Public Affairs Division, Kansas Farm Bureau, testified in support of the concept in **SB 534** ([Attachment 3](#)). Mr. Fuller made several recommendations that would make the proposal more acceptable to Farm Bureau.

Written testimony was provided by Stanley Larson, President, Kansas Agricultural Alliance, in support of **SB 534** ([Attachment 4](#)).

Paul Johnson provided the committee with information requested of him during the hearing on **SB 534** ([Attachment 5](#)).

Charles Benjamin, Kansas Natural Resource Council and Kansas Sierra Club, provided written testimony in support of **SB 534** ([Attachment 6](#)).

Senator Umbarger handed out some research material concerning **SB 534** ([Attachment 7](#)).

The hearing on **SB 534** was closed.

The next meeting will be February 15, 2000.