

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sharon Schwartz at 3:30pm on Tuesday, January 13, 2015, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Joanna Wochner, Legislative Research Department
Shirley Jepson, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
Natalie Scott, Office of Revisor of Statutes
David Wiese, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

John D. Floros, Dean, College of Agriculture and Director, Kansas State Research and Extension, Kansas State University
Mark Gardiner, Ashland, Kansas
Larry Justice, Johnson County

Others in attendance:

No list available

Making a Difference for Kansas

The meeting was held in the Visitor's Center auditorium, at the Capitol.

At the invitation of the Chair, the Senate Agriculture Committee, chaired by Senator Garrett Love, attended the presentation.

Dr. John Floros, Dean, College of Agriculture, and Director, K-State Research and Extension, Kansas State University, appeared before the Committees to provide a power-point presentation on activities of the Agriculture, Research and Extension Departments at Kansas State University. Dr. Floros provided a brochure to the Committees titled "K-State Research and Extension Making a Difference for Kansans, January 2015" (copy available online at www.ksu.edu/challenges.)

Dr. Floros stated that the mission of the department is dedicated to a safe, sustainable, competitive food and fiber system and to strong healthy communities, families, and youth through integrated research, analysis, and education. Kansas State University is committed to becoming a "top 5 college of agriculture". Their goal is to provide students with the tools and solutions needed to address future agriculture issues. Dr. Floros noted that agriculture is the state's largest employer, contributing approximately \$53 billion annually and 37 percent of the state's gross regional product annually. Students are increasing in number as well as growing in diversity. In addition, more scholarships are available to students.

Dr. Floros noted that the Department is moving forward to address five grand challenges that will affect

CONTINUATION SHEET

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all Kansans: global food systems, water, health, developing tomorrow's leaders and community vitality. The college has established a number of research and extension sites across the state.

Dr. Floros noted that Kansas leads the nation in sorghum production.

Mark Gardiner, Ashland, Kansas, spoke to the Committee regarding the impact on his farming and livestock operation as a result of research and information provided by the college. Larry Justice, Johnson County, provided information on activities he has been involved in as a result of his training as a "master gardener", a program provided by the college.

Dr Floros responded to questions from the Committees.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday, January 14, 2015, in Room 346-S of the Capitol.