

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sharon Schwartz at 3:30pm on Wednesday, January 20, 2016, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Joe Seiwert – Excused

Committee staff present:

Joanna Dolan, Legislative Research Department

Natalie Scott, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department

Shirley Jepson, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Heather O'Hara, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Ray Asebedo, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Agronomy, Kansas State University

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Point of Personal Privilege:

Chair Schwartz introduced her intern, Taylor Vott, who was attending the meeting.

Briefing on:

Ray Asebedo, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Department of Agronomy, Kansas State University, appeared before the Committee to present a power-point document on the Applications for Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) in agriculture ([Attachment 1](#)) . Another document titled "Agronomy eUpdate-UAS Registration: Positive implications for precision agriculture" was also distributed to the Committee ([Attachment 2](#)).

Mr. Asebedo stated that aerial surveillance of cropland gives a farmer a better perspective on the use of fertilizer, herbicides, fungicides, irrigation, crop rotation and harvesting resulting in increased yields for the farmer. Mr. Asebedo indicated the use of UAS's can improve crop management and give insight beyond what the human eye can determine.

Mr. Asebedo noted that there is also an opportunity to use UAS's with livestock management - being able to count livestock, locate sick animals, and other related applications.

Responding to questions from the Committee, Professor Asebedo indicated that presently a farmer can presently register an UAS online for hobby use; noting that the commercial use of the UAS may be addressed by new FFA rules. Referring to the pictures used in the presentation, the Professor noted that the use of infrared light interacts and is absorbed by plants to give a better perspective of crop

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources at 3:30pm on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 in Room 346-S of the Capitol.

production. Professor Asebedo noted that before a farmer learns how to use an UAS, it might be better served to hire a commercial organization. noting that hiring a commercial business would be more expensive to the farmer. Kansas State University is working with farmers as well as UAS producers to make a UAS that will serve the agriculture community appropriately. Professor Asebedo felt that the use of an UAS in the agriculture industry produces actual data and will make an impact on the farming industry.

The Professor indicated that funding for the research project comes from a combination of grant funds, state funds and university funds. The department is working to increase funding by securing larger grant funding.

Chair Schwartz thanked Professor Asebedo for his presentation.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for January 21, 2016, with a report on the Local Food and Farm Task Force.