

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sharon Schwartz at 3:30pm on Monday, January 25, 2016, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Ponka-We Victors – Excused
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

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Jackie McClaskey, Secretary, Department of Agriculture

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Presentation on:

Jackie McClaskey, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, appeared before the Committee, to present an update on the state of the State of Agriculture in Kansas, including an update on the Agriculture Workforce Needs Assessment Survey ([Attachment 1](#)).

Ms. McClaskey stated that the Department is committed to serving Kansas farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses and the customers/consumers they serve, feeling that the Department has a responsibility to help provide an environment that fosters economic growth and supports and advocates for agriculture. Ms. McClaskey noted that their Manhattan location allows them to collaborate and partnership with Kansas State University on research projects and other projects.

Ms. McClaskey's testimony included a listing of the Department's vision; mission and current agency priorities. In addition, Ms. McClaskey noted that each program and division is developing objectives and measurable goals aligned with the agency priorities.

The Secretary's testimony included a review of the Kansas Department of Agriculture 2015 Annual Report, noting the important of agriculture to the state of Kansas. In comparing 66 agriculture, food, and food processing sectors across the state, Ms. McClaskey noted that agriculture contributes approximately \$46.2 billion and provides approximately 126,652.4 jobs within the State.

The Committee thanked the Department for the information provided to each member for their individual district and noted the importance of having this type of information as they visit with their

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources at 3:30pm on Monday, January 25, 2016 in Room 346-S of the Capitol.

constituents and respond to questions.

Responding to a question regarding brands, Ms. McClaskey indicated that the information is available on the Department's website. With regard to increasing exports of farm products, Ms. McClaskey stated that farm prices are down and the Department is partnering with other states and companies in working with different countries to increase exports from the state.

- Responding to a question regarding the accuracy of the numbers in the report regarding small animal food processing within the state, the Secretary noted that she will check on information.

Other areas in which the Department is moving forward include increasing staff; working toward a vision for water; conservation practices; educate Kansans on the value of water and ways to conserve; hold public meetings with working groups to promote work between agencies and receive feedback from citizens; traveling the state to provide service to Kansas citizens.

- The Committee requested information on how Kansas compares to adjoining states; information on a 5-year average of crop prices and volume of crops.

The Chair thanked Ms. McClaskey for her presentation.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for January 26, 2016, with a hearing on **HB2479**.