

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sharon Schwartz at 3:30pm on Tuesday, February 09, 2016, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Joe Seiwert – Excused  
Representative Marty Read – Excused

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Kent Moore, Kansas Corn Commission  
Stephen Bigge, Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission  
Dennis Gruenbacher, Kansas Soybean Commission  
Brian Linin, Kansas Wheat Commission

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

### **Informational briefing:**

Kent Moore, Chairman, Kansas Corn Commission, appeared before the Committee to present the Commission's annual report ([Attachment 1](#)) ([Attachment 2](#)). Mr. Moore stated that Kansas produced the second largest corn crop in history in 2015. Mr. Moore noted that the Commission continues to focus on the top customers - the livestock and ethanol industries. In addition, the Commission works to build new markets and increase existing markets.

Mr. Moore responded to questions from the Committee.

### **Informational briefing:**

Stephen Bigge, serving as District IV Commissioner and representing the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission, presented their annual report ([Attachment 3](#)); ([Attachment 4](#)); ([Attachment 5](#)).

Mr. Bigge explained that the Commission suspended the state checkoff in favor of a United Sorghum Checkoff Program. Funds from the checkoff are used for research.

Mr. Bigge noted that Kansas holds 5 out of 13 board seats with the United Sorghum Checkoff Program. Over the past seven years, the Kansas Commission has funded over 4 million dollars in research with Kansas State University and \$100,000 to Heartland Plant Innovations in Manhattan, Kansas. Kansas

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources at 3:30pm on Tuesday, February 09, 2016 in Room 346-S of the Capitol.

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remains the number one producer of grain sorghum in the United States growing forty to fifty percent of the annual production. Grain Sorghum is well suited to Kansas because of it's water utilization characteristics.

Mr. Bigge responded to questions from the Committee.

### **Informational briefing:**

Dennis Gruenbacher, Chairman, Kansas Soybean Commission, appeared before the Committee to present the annual report from the Commission ([Attachment 6](#)), ([Attachment 7](#)), ([Attachment 8](#)).

Mr. Gruenbacher noted that all soybean farmers participate in the checkoff program, contributing a half-percent of the price received for each bushel. Funds from the checkoff program are used for efficient and effective program s for research and development on both the state and national levels. Included in Mr. Gruenbacher's testimony is a summary of their funded research. Mr. Gruenbacher noted that international market development is crucial to the future of the crop.

Mr. Gruenbacher responded to questions from the Committee.

### **Informational briefing:**

Written testimony was received from the Kansas Sunflower Commission ([Attachment 9](#)).

### **Informational briefing:**

Brian Linin, Secretary/Treasurer, Kansas Wheat Commission, appeared before the Committee to present the annual report from the Kansas Wheat Commission ([Attachment 10](#)). Mr. Linin explained that growing conditions during fiscal year 2015 continued to be plagued with drought. Rain that moved in right before harvest caused disease and weed growth.

Mr. Linin noted that the Kansas Wheat Innovation Center, located in Manhattan, is designed to conduct cutting-edge research in wheat variety development. A grant of \$1.5 million, has been received from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration, to fund the construction of a new greenhouse and head house complex at the Innovation Center. In addition, Kansas State University has been named a lead institution for research on wheat.

Mr. Linin responded to questions from the Committee.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Thursday, February 11, 2016, with a hearing on **HB2547**.