

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Garrett Love at 3:40 pm on Tuesday, January 13, 2015, 4-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Ralph Ostmeyer – Excused

Committee staff present:

Heather O'Hara, Legislative Research Department

Sara Leavitt, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Mark Savoy, Legislative Research Department

Natalie Scott, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dr. John Floros, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Director of K-State Research & Extension

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Introduction of Senate and House Committee Members

Introductions were made by Chairpersons Senator Love and Representative Schwartz.

Presentation on: Making a Difference for Kansans

Guest speaker Dr. John Floros, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Director of K-State Research & Extension, gave a presentation on how the Kansas State University College of Agriculture and K-State Research & Extension are "Making a Difference for Kansans." ([Attachment 1](#))

Dr. Floros shared the Mission and Vision of the College of Agriculture, as well as the Goals for 2025: provide and empower students and citizens with the knowledge and education needed to lead and advance agriculture and related fields; contribute integrated solutions for meeting and adapting to the "grand challenges" in dryland plant, animal, and food systems; enhance the quality of life and livelihoods of people, their communities and the environment; and build our human capacity and infrastructure to meet our vision and goals.

Dr. Floros provided facts and figures showing the importance of agriculture in the Kansas economy, then shared some updates and accomplishments from both the College of Agriculture and Research & Extension.

Dr. Floros stated that KSU is working on five "grand challenges" that affect Kansas: Global Food Systems, Water, Health, Community Vitality, and Developing Tomorrow's Leaders. One video was presented on advances made related to global food systems, one on water quantity and quality studies, and one on programs addressing health, community vitality, and developing tomorrow's leaders.

Guest Mark Gardiner of Ashland, Kansas spoke about how the development and history of Kansas and

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Kansas State University intertwined with his own family history over the years. He described the importance of innovations from the KSU College of Agriculture and K-State Research & Extension for the development of Kansas.

Guest Larry Justice from Olathe, KS shared his experience volunteering as a Master Gardener through K-State Research & Extension (KSRE). He discussed how KSRE provides opportunities for partnerships, school enrichment, research on the emerald ash borer, soil testing to protect waterways, and urban agriculture.

Dr. Floros returned to the floor and listed new programs that are being developed through KSRE, ways in which the KSU College of Agriculture is building human capacity, and plans for upcoming infrastructure development for the College of Agriculture and KSRE.

At the end of the presentation Dr. Floros took questions.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:48.