

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Garrett Love at 8:35am on Monday, March 09, 2015, 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

- Senator Steve Abrams – Excused
- Senator Ralph Ostmeyer – Excused
- Senator Elaine Bowers – Excused
- Senator Larry Powell – Excused
- Senator Tom Hawk – Excused

Committee staff present:

- Mark Savoy, Legislative Research Department
- Fran Lusk, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
- Heather O'Hara, Legislative Research Department
- Natalie Scott, Office of Revisor of Statutes
- David Wiese, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

- Kent Moore, Chairperson, KS Corn Commission
- Brian Linin, Secretary/Treasurer, KS Wheat Commission
- Clayton Short, Chairperson, KS Grain Sorghum Commission
- Jerry Jeschke, Chairperson, KS Soybean Commission

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Presentation on: Annual Reports by Agricultural Commodities

Kent Moore, KS Corn Commission, reported 2014 was an excellent year for corn farmers in most parts of Kansas, 566 million bushels of corn was harvested. The goal of the KS Corn Commission is to enhance the profitability of corn for Kansas farmers. Livestock is their top customer and over the year, the KS Corn Commission has supported the industry through investment research and in market development for red meat. The exports of beef and pork equate to an annual impact of over 65 million bushels of Kansas corn. They work with the US Grains Council and K-State's International Grains Program to build export markets through increased demand and better market access for U.S. corn. The corn commission continues its strong support of ethanol and building markets for ethanol. The Corn Commission also funds research at K-State, focusing on production and profitability. The goal is to maintain profitability for growers while conserving water while producing a bountiful corn crop that our livestock and ethanol industries rely upon. ([Attachment 1](#))

Brian Linin, Secretary-Treasurer, KS Wheat Commission, reported their first major success story is the beginning of research in the Kansas Wheat Innovation Center, at Kansas State University. Built to conduct cutting-edge research in wheat variety development. Researchers are working on developing a celiac edible wheat for those suffering from Celiac Disease and unable to eat wheat. Each year Kansas

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farmers export roughly half of the Kansas wheat crop. The U.S. wheat industry's biggest hard red winter wheat customer was Brazil with purchased 162 million bushels for the marketing year 13/14. Nigeria is one of the top importers of U.S. wheat with 98.8 million bushels in the 13/14 marketing year. ([Attachment 2](#))

Clayton Short, KS Grain Sorghum Commissions, reported Kansas is the number one producer of grain sorghum in the U.S.. In 2014 Kansas harvested 2.70 million acres of sorghum. China has currently imported 64.7% of total U.S. sorghum production totalling 280 million bushels. Sorghum is also standing out for its water sipping attributes. Due to sorghums water use efficiency, it will play a role in maintaining and growing the Kansas agricultural economy as more progress is made in "conserving and extending"extending our water supplies. ([Attachment 3](#))

Jerry Jeschke, KS Soybean Commission, reported international market development is crucial to our future. About every other row of soybeans is exported overseas. China is our biggest customer, spending more than 13 billion dollars on U.S. soy in 2013. Domestic livestock industries are almost all of the U.S. soybean meal with about 414,000 tons being used in 2013. The greatest success story is the area of biodiesel, which helps drive demand for U.S. soy oil and play an important role in the nation's overall energy strategy by fueling state and municipal governments, school districts, the Defense Department, farming and mining equipment, cruise ships, commercial motor carriers, and home heating systems. ([Attachment 4](#))

Steve Swaffer, KS Sunflower Commission presented written testimony. The KS Sunflower Commission continues to look for opportunities to promote the sunflower, increase acres planted in our State and provide valuable crop research. ([Attachment 5](#))

At the end of the presentation Clayton Short and Jerry Jeschke took questions.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:26am.