

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 13, 2016, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Joe Seiwert – 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:

Dr. John Floros, Dean of Agriculture, Kansas State University

Others in attendance:

No list available

Presentation on "Building for the Future"

Joining the House Committee today are members of the Senate Agriculture Committee and Senate Natural Resources Committee.

Dr. John Floros, Dean of Agriculture, Kansas State University (KSU), appeared before the Committees to moderate a slide presentation of present and future activities at the university as it pertains to agricultural research and education. Dr. Floros stated, with agriculture as the leading industry in the State of Kansas, the university works to support the industry through involvement relating to food, feed, fiber and fuel.

Dr. Floros noted that the university operates a number of research and extension sites across the state in order to be available with assistance to the agricultural communities. The industry contributes to the economy of the state through the employment of vast numbers of citizens and the export of agricultural products as it supports the feeding of people throughout the world. KSU is very involved in research to assist in revitalizing the state and its economy.

Dr. Floros stated that the University is leading the way in doing research in advancing technology into the agricultural use of drones as it relates to measuring field size, checking on crop disease, irrigation of crops and other agricultural activities. Dr. Floros noted that it is quite possible that at some not too distant time, every farmer will possess a drone to assist in their business.

The University is also involved in research into water sedimentation, stream bank stabilization, availability of water and experiments regarding types of irrigation.

Dr. Floros mentioned the support given by the University to community programs, such as master

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gardeners, support for 4-H Clubs, improving the health of communities and Kansas citizens. The universities' crop judging teams are a learning tool used by the university. A large number of students who graduate with an agricultural degree are employed by major companies and leaders in the industry.

Dr. Floros also noted that the University is planning to build a new agricultural and research facility at the University; working to secure funding at this time.

Dr. Floros responded to questions from the Committee.

DRAFT