

/Joint Senate Agriculture and Small Business Committee, and  
MINUTES OF THE / House COMMITTEE ON Agriculture and Livestock

The meeting was called to order by House Chairman, Bill Fuller at  
Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m. on January 12, 1984 in room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department  
Kathleer Moss, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

William Leshar, Assistant Secretary, Department of Agriculture

The joint meeting of the House Agriculture and Livestock Committee and the Senate Agriculture and Small Business Committee was called to order by Chairman of the House Committee, Bill Fuller.

In introducing William Leshar, Chairman Fuller said the joint committee was fortunate to have one of the top policy makers in agriculture present. He noted Mr. Leshar has been with the Department of Agriculture since 1981.

Mr. Leshar told the group that he has seen the bleak side of agriculture as he speaks before groups in different parts of the country.

He covered many topics during his address before the joint committee, including embargoes, inflation, the general economy, imports, exports, the budget, the world market, insurance, quality of grain, family farming, livestock and the dairy industry. He spoke of the PIK program which he saw as a one-time, short term effort to speak to the farm economy. He also spoke of possible legislation but cautioned that not much could be expected this year.

Mr. Leshar pointed out that agriculture is the most important industry in this nation because it touches every segment of business.

Chairman Fuller thanked Secretary Leshar for being present and sharing his knowledge.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 A.M. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, 1984 at 9:00 A.M. in Room 423-S.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

27 JAN 1984

Honorable Bill R. Fuller  
Chairman  
House Agriculture Committee  
Kansas Statehouse  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I first want to thank you for convening the Joint House-Senate Agriculture Committees, January 12, in Topeka. It is always a pleasure to get out in the country and talk with farmers and others whose livelihood depend on agriculture. I encourage you to continue the debate on future farm policy, and express your views at the Federal level. Just prior to appearing before the Joint Committee, I gave a speech at the American Farm Bureau Federation Conference, a copy of which I have enclosed for your use.

I also want to get back to you, as I promised, concerning the issue of grading Arkan wheat. Mr. Kenneth A. Gilles, Administrator, Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS), has informed me that on January 11, he was contacted by the FGIS Kansas City office and was told that they had been requested to appear before the Kansas State Legislature, House and Senate Agriculture Committees, on January 27. Mr. Gilles was informed that the Kansas State Agricultural Experiment Station Director and members of FGIS were to discuss difficulties in classifying Arkan wheat, and that the testimony was to be in conjunction with the Experiment Station's request for wheat research funds. Because this seemed to be a matter involving a state entity's request for funds from a state legislature, he suggested that it would be inappropriate for FGIS to participate.

On January 13, Mr. Gary Bothwell, Chief Grain Inspector for the State of Kansas, called to inform him that he heard that Mr. Gilles had declined to appear before the state legislature and had declined to have FGIS people appear. It was his understanding that Mr. Gillian of the House Agriculture Committee desired to have an FGIS presentation on wheat classing made on January 24. He informed Mr. Bothwell of the previous information relating to the appearance in support of KSU's Agricultural Experiment Station budget on January 27. Mr. Bothwell knew nothing of this. He concluded by informing Mr. Bothwell that if FGIS were to appear and talk about the United States Grain Standards and wheat classification as it impacted on the marketing system in the United States, they would accept an invitation, provided that a letter were written to David R. Galliard, the Deputy Administrator. Mr. Galliard appeared before your committee on January 24.

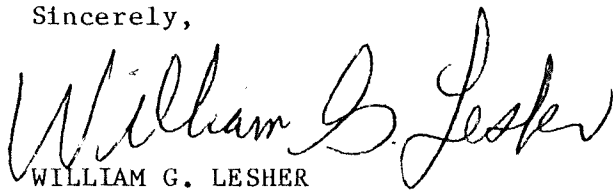
Mr. Gilles takes issue with the allegation that FGIS has not been cooperative with Kansas State University. He has informed me that Kansas State University chose to release Arkan wheat. After its release was announced, samples were sent to the Kansas City office. These submitted samples appeared as Soft wheat or Mixed wheat because individual kernels had appearance of both Soft and Hard kernels. Since August 1983, FGIS has had three meetings with people at Kansas State University. On two of these occasions, headquarters staff members have

gone from Washington to Manhattan. On January 19, Mr. Gilles made a presentation at Manhattan, Kansas, at a seminar entitled "Wheat Classification -- A Breeder's Dilemma". During this presentation, a proposal was presented to establish a new wheat classification, Red wheat, which would accommodate the heterogenous kernels typical of the variety, Arkan. I am enclosing a copy of his presentation.

In addition, I am enclosing a copy of a proposed rule by FGIS to review and revise the regulations under the U.S. Grain Standards Act. Among the proposals is the establishment of an additional class of wheat designated as Red wheat. Such a class would include blends of those Red wheat varieties which, like Arkan, are particularly hard to identify.

I hope that this information answers your questions and concerns and would appreciate your sharing this letter with other members of your committee. Again, I appreciated the opportunity to visit with you and members of your committee.

Sincerely,



WILLIAM G. LESHER  
Assistant Secretary  
for Economics

Enclosures (*Not included in minutes*)

cc: John Gordley

Identical letter sent to: Honorable Fred A. Kerr  
Chairman  
Senate Agriculture Committee  
Kansas Statehouse  
Topeka, Kansas 66612