

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND SMALL BUSINESS

The meeting was called to order by Representative Susan Roenbaugh at _____
Chairperson

9:02 a.m. ~~p.m.~~ on January 25, 1990 in room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Rezac
Representative Solbach, Excused
Representative Wells

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research
Jill Wolters, Revisor of Statutes Office
Pat Brunton, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Walter R. Woods, Director, Kansas Cooperative Extension Service, Kansas State University
Don D. Pretzer, Assistant Director of Extension, Agriculture & Natural Resources
Dan Rogers, Extension Irrigation Engineer
Mike Bradshaw, Health and Safety Specialist
Hyde S. Jacobs, Director, Kansas Water Resources Research Institute

Chairman Roenbaugh welcomed Dr. Walter Woods and staff who were present to give a review of Extension.

Dr. Woods stated the Cooperative Extension Service has adopted a planning process that is responsive to statewide educational issues. The priority issues most directly impacting agriculture include: agricultural profitability and competitiveness, economic revitalization, water quality, and conservation of natural resources.

Dr. Woods further stated he is convinced that good quality water will be the economic lifeblood that sustains agricultural, municipal, and industrial growth throughout the state.

Dr. Don Pretzer said the Kansas Extension educational water quality plan of work is divided into three basic sections: (1) non-point source pollution; (2) domestic water quality; and (3) chemical task force (pesticide registration and pesticide application training).

Water quality protection has been identified as the most pressing environmental objective for the 1990 farm bill.

Dr. Danny Rogers stated a non-point pollution program development team has been organized by Cooperative Extension to support its system-wide water quality and soil and water conservation initiatives. Members of the non-point pollution team provide leadership in planning, implementing, and evaluating county, area, and statewide programs in non-point source pollution. The object is to help Kansas farmers and ranchers use agricultural systems that enhance profitability, protect water quality, and prevent non-point source pollution.

Mike Bradshaw said approximately 500,000 Kansans rely on private wells for their water needs. What little is known leads to the belief that many people are drinking water that does not meet the same safe drinking water standards required for municipal water systems. Most of the private water system problems can be corrected, and further deterioration of groundwater can be prevented. To address the growing concerns over the quality of domestic water, Extension organized a water quality task force in 1985. The task force was asked to identify educational program needs which would help to address water quality issues.

Dr. Hyde Jacobs testified that coordination among state, federal and local agencies involved in environmental quality is essential. The Kansas

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND SMALL BUSINESS,
room 423-S, Statehouse, at 9:00 a.m. ~~4:00~~ on January 25, 1990

Cooperative Extension Service has appointed staff members to enhance communication with other agencies. He stated the Extension also will play a role in implementing the State Water Plan. Extension at the state, area, and local level can deliver information and educational programs in these areas.

Questions and answers followed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting of the House Agriculture and Small Business Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, January 31, 1990, in Room 423-S at 9:00 a.m.

