

Approved April 8, 1992  
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

The meeting was called to order by Representative Lee Hamm at  
Chairperson

9:05 a.m./~~p.m.~~ on Monday, March 30, 1992 in room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Heinemann, Representative Gatlin, Representative Rock, Representative Wisdom and Representative D. Lawrence, who were excused.

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

Conferees appearing before the committee: Charles Popelka, Director  
Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association  
Munden, Kansas

Al LeDoux  
Committee of Kansas Farm Organizations

Howard Tice  
Kansas Association of Wheat Growers

Gary Hall  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
Kansas State Board of Agriculture

Hyde S. Jacobs  
Assistant to Dean of Agriculture  
Kansas State University

Hearings were opened on **SB 763** - concerning grain sorghum; re. to assessments thereon.

Charles Popelka, Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association, testified in favor of **SB 763**. He stated the Association voted to seek a two mill increase in the assessment levied against the commercial sale of grain sorghum to the first purchaser. He further stated many good projects will remain unfunded next fiscal year due to a lack of needed monies. (Attachment 1).

Al LeDoux, Committee of Kansas Farm Organizations, testified in favor of **SB 763**. He stated this legislation will be beneficial to the industry. (Attachment 2).

A question and answer period followed the testimonies.

Howard Tice commented to the committee that there is no real concern in the wheat industry in regards to a check-off as this represents profit. Without that investment, there would be no profit today.

Hearings were closed on **SB 763**.

Hearings were opened on **HB 3184** - creating agricultural research initiatives competitive grants program and leadership council thereof; creating the agricultural research initiatives competitive grants fund.

Gary Hall, Kansas State Board of Agriculture, testified in favor of **HB 3184**. He stated the real strength of research programs in Kansas has been in support of production efficiency and profitability of crops and livestock. Because of budget restrictions, research in Kansas has been focusing mainly on the most pressing needs of Kansas agriculture. A full

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
room 423-S, Statehouse, at 9:05 a.m.~~p.m.~~ on Monday, March 30, 1992.

complement of research programs that address all the problems of Kansas agriculture is needed. (Attachment 3).

Hyde S. Jacobs, Assistant to Dean of Agriculture, Kansas State University, appeared before the committee in support of **HB 3184**. He recommends increased funding for agricultural research because investments in agricultural research will significantly and consistently enhance the Kansas economy. (Attachment 4).

After a question and answer period, hearings were closed on **HB 3184**.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting of the House Agriculture Committee will be Tuesday, March 31, 1992, at 9:00 a.m. in room 423-S, State Capitol.



**TESTIMONY**

Senate Bill #763  
House Agriculture Committee  
30 March, 1992

Charles Popelka, Director  
Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association  
Munden, KS

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of this committee. My name is Charles Popelka. I am vice-president of the Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association and a grain sorghum farmer from Munden. I am here today on behalf of our association, which at it's annual meeting voted to seek a two mill increase in the assessment levied against the commercial sale of grain sorghum to the first purchaser. Many, if not all of you, are aware of the new and exciting uses for agricultural crops that are being developed. And with the uncertainty in overseas markets, we can all agree that these new non-traditional uses can represent a bright future for grain sorghum producers. Most prominent researchers tell us that we are only beginning to scratch the surface of these non-traditional grain uses. There is a tremendous amount of opportunity waiting to be utilized with one major factor limiting this opportunity, the lack of needed funding.

Kansas is traditionally the number one grain sorghum producing state in the nation. However, grain sorghum does have an image problem among producers and users, domestically

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and internationally. Sorghum is a product that does not promote itself. We must be able to have a presence at the right times and places to promote our product domestically and internationally.

There are many needed research projects pertaining to current production practices that need our immediate attention. In western Kansas the chinchbug continues to be a major problem. Lowering of inputs and costs should be a major focus of research. Across our state, the conservation and protection of water will continue to be an issue of major significance. Substantial corn acres could be switched to sorghum, especially in areas of high water usage in our western counties. It is important to have research projects funded to maintain agricultural competitiveness in our state. In turn, this should benefit the local counties and the state in maintaining and increasing revenues due to increased economic activity.

Over the last fifteen years that the check-off program has been in existence, there has been one increase in the assessment rate, from two to three mills. Costs attributed to basic research, whether for production or utilization, has gone up considerably during the last fifteen years. Add to that the new-use areas that were not even known about in the late seventies and you have a lot of good and necessary projects that are shelved or seriously cut-back due to a lack

of needed funding. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1992, preliminary estimates are that only thirty-two percent of proposed research projects will be funded. All proposals do not and should not receive funding, even when funds are available. However, many good projects will remain unfunded next fiscal year due to a lack of needed monies.

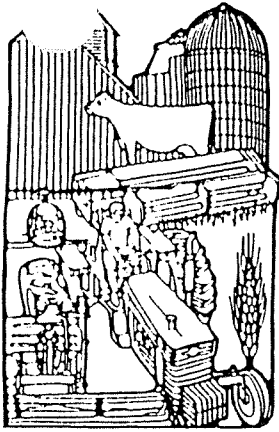
The Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission has done an excellent job in determining the priority of proposed projects in relation to the amount of funds they have available. We come before you today to ask that the assessment be increased to allow increased funding to all areas including research and market development. We fear opportunity lost today might not present itself again.

All monies collected from grain sorghum producers in Kansas are available for refund should the farmer request it. The only limitation is that a minimum amount of five dollars was established a few years ago to help cut down on the expense of processing refund requests smaller than the five dollar amount. Our organization believes that the refund provision provides an additional level of checks and balances to our current check-off system. The fact that refunds typically run at less than a ten percent level, we believe indicates general widespread acceptance among producers. We do not see an increase in assessment as a negative factor in that acceptance. In fact, by allowing greater

participation from Kansas in research and market development activities, we might see a decrease in refund percentages due to increased producer awareness concerning the use and benefits of grain sorghum check-off associated dollars.

In summary, there is a definite need for increased funding in research and market development of grain sorghum in our state. The Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association believes that the future of many potential efforts to increase the profitability of growing grain sorghum in Kansas rests on our ability to raise the needed funds to support those same efforts. Although there will always be requests for funds that are not there, the proposed increase will insure that Kansas producers continue to do their part.

I thank all of you and will gladly take any questions at this time.



# Committee of Kansas Farm Organizations

STATEMENT OF POSITION

COMMITTEE OF KANSAS FARM ORGANIZATIONS

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 763

HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

MARCH 30, 1992

**Al LeDoux**  
*Legislative Agent*  
Route 1  
Holtan, KS 66436  
(913) 364-3219

Committee of Kansas  
Farm Organization Members

Associated Milk Producers, Inc.

Kansas Agri-Women Association

Kansas Association of Soil  
Conservation Districts

Kansas Association of  
Wheat Growers

Kansas Cooperative Council

Kansas Corn Growers Association

Kansas Electric Cooperatives

Kansas Ethanol Association

Kansas Farm Bureau

Kansas Fertilizer and  
Chemical Association

Kansas Grain and Feed Association

Kansas Livestock Association

Kansas Meal Processors  
Association

Kansas Pork Producers Council

Kansas Rural Water  
Districts Association

Kansas Seed Industry Association

Kansas Soybean Association

Kansas State Grange

Kansas Veterinary Medical  
Association

Kansas Water Resources Association

Kansas Water Well Association

Mid America Dairymen, Inc.

Western Retail Implement and  
Hardware Association

Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers

Kansas Association of Nurserymen

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee: My name is Al LeDoux and I am presenting testimony to you this morning on behalf of the Committee of Kansas Farm Organizations. As you well know, our group is made up of twenty-five (25) Ag and Ag related organizations operating here in Kansas.

CKFO has elected to unanimously support Senate Bill 763. In reviewing the bill our members identified this legislation as beneficial to the industry. We believe the proposed increase in checkoff dollars is designed to fund new research into food and non-food uses for sorghum. We understand that this proposal allows individual producers the option of having their producer dollars returned to them if a request is made.

We would appreciate the Committee's favorable action on Senate Bill No. 763.

Respectfully submitted,

Al LeDoux

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ATTACHMENT 2



Testimony on House Bill 3184

Presented by

Gary Hall  
Special Assistant to the Secretary,  
Kansas State Board of Agriculture

Presented to

House Agricultural Committee  
March 30, 1992

Agricultural production in Kansas amounts to \$6-7 billion annually, a figure that is increased about threefold by food processing and other value-added activities. Such tremendous productivity depends heavily on agricultural research.

Through the creation of nine industry support groups, an evaluation of agricultural initiatives was made. Each group selected representatives with specific commodity and or professional expertise which provided a needs and assessment review applicable to the future of their industry. The groups were charged with the following goals: 1.) to identify agricultural research requirements and industry needs for the next five years, 2.) to provide definite proposals and action to accomplish those identified needs, and 3.) to recommend a strategy for sources of funding to match those needs. Facilitation to our review was provided by agribusiness, consultants, the bio-technology sector, the Kansas Board of Agriculture, the Kansas Corn, Grain Sorghum, Soybean, and Wheat Commissions, and the research community.

The real strength of research programs in Kansas has been in support of production efficiency and profitability of crops and livestock. Modification of existing crops, or the development of new crops, requires additional research. Kansas has a wide variety of domestic animals, and each species needs special research attention. Information on genetic improvement of plants animals; on safe and effective management of pests; on management of plant and animal environmental stresses; and on conservation and efficient use of water in plant and animal systems is needed. Continued research efforts on narrow profit margins, on environmental quality, on globalization of the marketplace, and on the impact of federal farm programs, must be maintained.

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, a rapidly changing world, agricultural research must be on the cutting edge of scientific advances and in the forefront of development and application of new technology. First rate research requires additional financial support. State and federal appropriations have failed to keep up with the costs of inflation and with the need for new projects and new equipment. Because of budget restrictions, research in Kansas has been focusing mainly on the most pressing needs of Kansas agriculture. A full complement of research programs that address all the problems of Kansas agriculture is needed. Kansas producers, consumers, and citizens will not benefit as much as they could from a fully supported public agricultural research program.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

**John Jr. Armstrong,**  
Wheat  
**Steve Morris,**  
Feedgrains  
**Dale Peterson,**  
Oilseeds

**Ron Meier,**  
Horticulture  
**Del Allen,**  
Meat Processing  
**Chuck Munson,**  
Livestock

**Pat Thiessen,**  
Wheat Processing  
**Chuck Magathan,**  
Hay and Forage  
**Chuck Johnson**  
Agri-Business

House Agriculture and Small Business Committee

Agricultural Research Initiatives Competitive Grants Program  
March 30, 1992

Testimony by: Hyde S. Jacobs  
Assistant to Dean of Agriculture  
Kansas State University

Farmers and ranchers are concerned about profitability in all segments of agriculture. There is also great concern about resource conservation and water and environmental protection. Agricultural leaders, individually and through organized groups, are asking for additional research support--research to make Kansas farmers and the Kansas economy more competitive in a regional, national, and global economy.

Industry leaders are convinced that research developments are the key to future economic success on the farm and in the state. They point to the introduction of Newton and Karl wheats, impact of disease and insect resistant varieties and hybrids, and development of management strategies which result in livestock with enhanced growth rates, improved feed efficiency, and better health. Those developments have added millions to the Kansas economy.

After consulting with Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station (KAES) and industry leaders, the State Board of Agriculture asked agricultural leaders to identify needed research requirements and recommend implementation strategies. Priority research initiatives were identified for wheat, feedgrains, oilseeds, horticulture, meat processing, livestock, grain processing, hay and forage, and agri-business.

Subsequently, K-State scientists reviewed each initiative and responded with research suggestions which would advance the agricultural industry and the Kansas economy. Responses included developments in biotechnology and bioengineering, value-added and thermal processing of food and feed grains, marketing strategies, food safety and processing, reproductive efficiency, animal nutrition, and a host of additional strategies.

Kansas State University and KAES would be pleased to respond to increased opportunity in agricultural research. Current resources have been used to address priority research needs. However, we cannot meet the increased expectations articulated by industry leaders unless additional resources are provided.

Because investments in agricultural research will significantly and consistently enhance the Kansas economy, I recommend increased funding for agricultural research. We believe we have teams of scientists that not only have the ability to compete but also will make significant contributions to the Kansas economy. The principles contained in H.B. 3184 is a step toward increased funding for agricultural research.

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In implementing this research program, I firmly believe we should build on our strengths in research and education in the Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station and the Kansas Cooperative Extension Service. Based on mission statements and state and federal law, K-State has a clear and statewide mandate in agricultural research and extension education.