

Approved: Eugene Shore 3-8-93
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Eugene Shore at 9:10 a.m. on February 23, 1993 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Lloyd - Excused

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Jill Wolters, Revisor of Statutes
Kay Johnson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Ray Aslin - State Forester

Chairman Shore called the meeting to order and opened hearings on **HB 2436: Office of State and Extension Forestry.**

Proponents: Ray Aslin, State Forester, K-State University Extension Forestry, attachments #1 and #2, described how the forestry agency provides assistance to landowners, the forest industry, communities and rural fire districts. Also, the agency produces and distributes seedlings for conservation plantings. **HB 2436** updates the 1965 Forest Resource Statutes to more clearly reflect forestry programs and responsibilities. The bill changes the current official title from "Office of Extension Forestry" to "State and Extension Forestry" to more fully describe the work done as the state forestry agency. The bill also includes responsibilities for urban and community forest resource management, nonpoint source pollution control, riparian protection and a conservation seedling nursery at El Dorado Correctional Work Facility. Mr. Aslin recommended two amendments to the bill:

Section 3, (i), line 21 - "streams and stabilization" should be changed to "streambank stabilization".

Section 4, (b), line 13 - after the word management add "and urban and community forestry tree planting, management and care".

Opponents: None

Discussion followed on dimension lumber potential in Kansas, dead tree removal and new plantings in western Kansas, how the forestry agency is funded, management of riparian areas in conjunction with other agencies and the washing out of the Neosho riverbank.

Representative Neufeld made a motion to amend **HB 2436** as recommended by Mr. Aslin. Representative Reinhardt seconded the motion. The motion carried. Representative Gatlin made a motion to pass **HB 2436** favorably as amended. Representative Neufeld seconded the motion. The motion carried.

HB 2387 - On farm sale of goat milk.

Chairman Shore opened discussion on **HB 2387** and explained that there has been some question concerning home pasteurization and labeling. Discussion continued on the advantages and disadvantages of home pasteurization, regulating and testing pasteurized goat milk, liability factors and labeling.

Representative Reinhardt made a motion to table **HB 2387**. Representative Bryant seconded the motion. The motion failed. Representative Powers made a motion to pass **HB 2387** favorably. Representative Rutledge seconded the motion. The Chair being in doubt on a voice vote, division was called. On a show of hands the motion carried 10 to 8.

Distributed to committee members were copies of an article about turkey farming, attachment #3, and the fiscal note on **HB 2436**, attachment #4. The meeting adjourned at 10:43am. The next meeting is scheduled for February 24, 1993.



Cooperative Extension Service

State and Extension Forestry
2610 Claflin Road
Manhattan, Kansas 66502-2798
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TO: House Committee on Agriculture
Gene Shore, Chairperson

FROM: Ray Aslin
State Forester

DATE: February 23, 1993

SUBJECT: HB 2436 - Office of State and Extension
Forestry

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee; I am Ray Aslin, State Forester with Kansas State and Extension Forestry at Kansas State University. I appreciate the opportunity to testify before your Committee regarding HB 2436, updating the Kansas Forest Resource Statutes.

As the State Forestry Agency in Kansas, we provide technical assistance to (1) landowners in woodland management, harvesting timber and tree planting; (2) the forest industry in better utilization of wood and markets for their products; (3) communities in tree management and care and tree planting on public property; and (2) rural fire districts in training and equipping volunteers for safety and improved fire fighting capabilities. In addition, we produce and distribute low cost seedlings for conservation plantings across the state.

As the Extension Forestry component within the Cooperative Extension Service, we provide educational programs and demonstrations and educational materials to encourage proper management of the forest resources, both rural and urban, on private and public lands.

Surprising to many, Kansas has a rich history and long tradition in forestry. For a prairie state, Kansas has a significant forest resource. Natural woodlands occupy approximately 1.5 million acres; most of it in the eastern third of the state. The annual timber harvest for Kansas is estimated to be 30 million board feet providing an annual income to farmers and other landowners of \$7.5 to \$10 million. The primary processing of logs into secondary products, the sale of secondary products and the utilization of these products in the final manufacturing process provides \$75 to \$100 million annually in economic benefits to the Kansas economy.

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ATTACHMENT #1

In addition to these natural forests, Kansas has a sizable planted forest. Kansans have always been tree planters from the beginning of settlement. It is estimated that over 250,000 acres in Kansas have been planted to trees for farmstead windbreaks, field shelterbelts, Christmas trees, fuelwood and other multiple benefits.

In 1887, the first state forestry organization was created by the state legislature; the 5th state in the union to do so. This was "An act to establish the office of Commissioner of Forestry ... and to encourage the planting and growing of forest trees in the state..." A new state forestry law, in 1909, established a division of forestry within Kansas State University. This forestry division was under the supervision of a State Forester appointed by the College Board of Regents. In 1936, the first Extension Farm Forester was employed in the state, half time by the Kansas State University Extension Division and half time by the Agricultural Experiment Station. The Extension Forester was officially designated State Forester, in 1961, with overall responsibility for the state forestry program. Senate Bill 297, passed by the 1965 Kansas Legislature then brought the state forestry legislation up-to-date and more clearly defined the scope and responsibilities of the forestry program as administered by the Office of Extension Forestry.

The 1965 Forest Resource Statutes that we are operating under are in need of up-dating to more clearly reflect our forestry programs and responsibilities now and in the future. To begin with, our current official title "Office of Extension Forestry" does not fully describe the work we do as the State Forestry agency. In fact, the technical assistance portion of our programs makes up a major part of our responsibilities in administering state forestry programs under a cooperative agreement with the USDA Forest Service. Therefore, we are recommending our title be changed to "State and Extension Forestry."

Since 1965, Kansas State and Extension Forestry has expanded it's role in forest resource management to include our urban and community forest resource, approximately 1.25 million acres. Our current statutes do not reflect our responsibilities for this program which, with the passage of the Forestry Title of the 1990

Farm Bill, authorized the allocation of federal funds to state forestry agencies to administer an Urban and Community Forestry program across the nation. We have provided the leadership in the Urban and Community Forestry Program in Kansas since 1971 when we received a grant from the USDA Forest Service to develop and implement a pilot program focusing on rural communities. The Program has flourished over the years to include 106 communities with established Community Forestry Programs and an additional 140 communities that develop and implement tree planting projects and request specific information pertaining to tree management. Our foresters provide technical assistance to community leaders and volunteers and administer a cost-share program for local tree planting projects.

Another important area where we are focusing considerable effort is in the arena of nonpoint source pollution control and riparian protection. Even prior to the 1989 passage of the Riparian and Wetland Protection Act, State and Extension Forestry was encouraging the protection and management of existing riparian forests, those directly associated with perennial and intermittent streams, and the reestablishment of trees and shrubs where clearing has taken place. Riparian forests improve water quality by filtering pollutants from water running off adjacent cropland, reducing soil erosion and stabilizing streambanks. Other benefits include improved wildlife habitat for both mammals and fisheries, production of wood products and recreation. State and Extension Forestry is working in partnership with other county, state and federal natural resource agencies in developing and implementing voluntary Best Management Practices in riparian areas for these multiple benefits with improved water quality being the driving force.

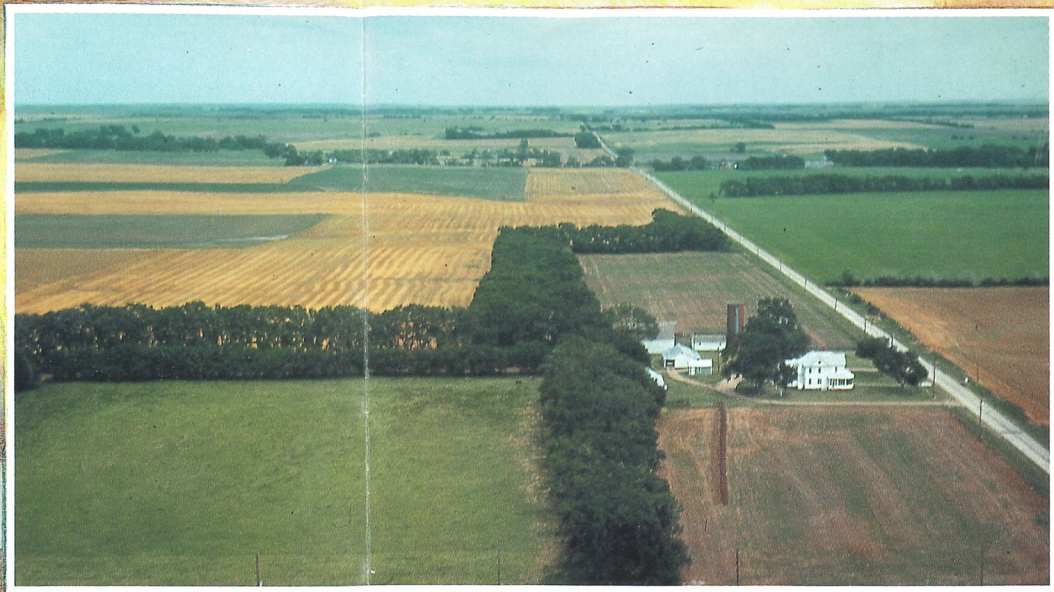
Finally, we have established a conservation seedling nursery at the El Dorado Correctional Work Facility in cooperation with the Kansas Departments of Corrections, Wildlife and Parks and Transportation. We are currently producing 28 different species of trees and shrubs for conservation plantings and distributing them to landowners across the state. Prior to establishing the seedling nursery we were dependent on other state nurseries for our plants.

There are two amendments that I would like to recommend for the current Bill as written. Under Section 3, K.S.A. 76-425d, (i), line 21, the words "streams and stabilization" should be changed to "streambank stabilization"; and Section 4, K.S.A. 76-425f (b) line 13 after the word management please add "and urban and community forestry tree planting, management and care".

House Bill 2436, with the two recommended amendments, will up-date Kansas State and Extension Forestry responsibilities to meet the challenges of the 90's and beyond. More than ever before, the forest resources of this state are playing a vital role in protecting our soils and improving our waters while providing critical wildlife habitat and helping meet society's increasing demand for wood products.

FOREST PEST MANAGEMENT

Foresters monitor insect and disease impact in woodlands and conservation tree plantings, and recommend control measures for insect and disease problems.



RURAL FIRE PROTECTION

Our fire program is a cooperative effort to provide assistance to the state's rural fire departments. Services include wildfire training, fire prevention materials, and the acquisition and distribution of excess military vehicles for conversion to fire fighting units. Matching grants to communities under 10,000 population are also provided to help purchase new fire fighting equipment to better protect people and property in rural Kansas.



WINDBREAK MANAGEMENT

Planning and technical assistance in planting and maintaining farmstead, livestock and field windbreaks are available. Plans include proper design, tree species selection, site preparation, planting instructions, weed control and long-term care.



CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Project Learning Tree (PLT) is a highly successful national environmental education program co-sponsored in Kansas by the American Forest Foundation and State and Extension Forestry. A six-hour workshop provides teachers, 4-H and other youth leaders and natural resource professionals with training on how to use activity guides containing lessons and activities that can supplement existing curricula. PLT activities are action-oriented, can be used in any order, and require little in the way of equipment.



To request services of a forester, contact your county Extension office, or State and Extension Forestry, 2610 Claflin Road, Manhattan, KS 66502, (913) 537-7050.



Cooperative Extension Service
Kansas State University
Manhattan, Kansas

L-847

May 1992

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, as amended. Kansas State University, County Extension Councils, and United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating. Walter R. Woods, Director. All educational programs and materials available without discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or handicap.

File Code: Forestry

JH 5-92-5M

Kansas Foresters

SERVING YOUR NEEDS

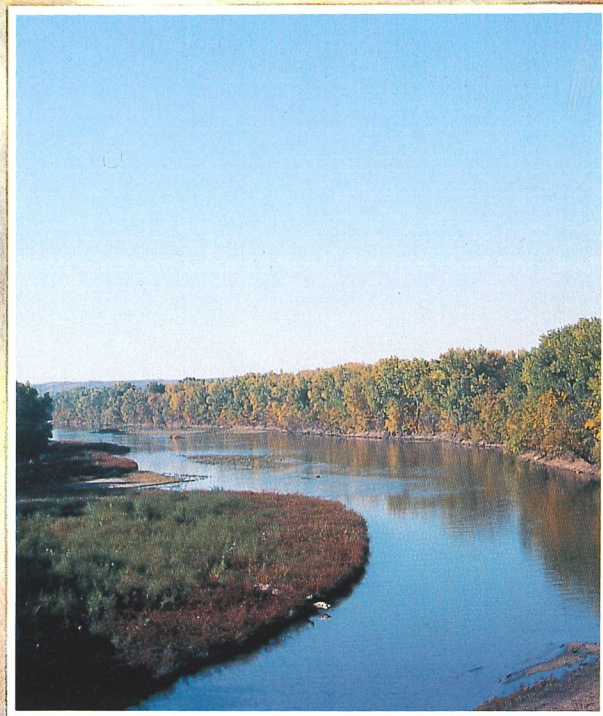


Cooperative Extension Service
State and Extension Forestry
Manhattan, Kansas

Kansas has over 1.4 million acres of natural woodland. Although less than 3 percent of the total land area, these woodlands are extremely important in providing such benefits as wood products, wildlife habitat, soil erosion control, water quality, recreation and scenic beauty. Ninety-six percent of the total woodland acreage is owned by private individuals.

Kansas communities support 1.2 million acres of planted forest. While providing a better quality of life for urban residents, this planted forest needs constant care and protection from people pressure.

The following programs, administered by State and Extension Forestry at Kansas State University, are offered at no cost to landowners or communities in proper management and protection of their tree resources.



FOREST MANAGEMENT

Private landowners receive technical assistance in managing woodlands for wood products, wildlife habitat, soil erosion control, water quality and recreation. Assistance includes tree planting, thinning existing woodlands, pruning high-value trees and timber harvesting.

The Forest Stewardship Program provides technical assistance to landowners to manage their forest for economic, environmental and social benefits. A stewardship incentive program provides cost-share money to implement a landowner plan developed under the Forest Stewardship Program.

Loggers and mill operators also receive assistance in harvesting techniques, processing logs, and utilization and marketing of wood products.

CONSERVATION TREE PLANTING AND IMPROVEMENT

The tree planting program sells over 1 million low-cost tree and shrub seedlings annually for use in conservation plantings. In this cooperative state and federal program, landowners are encouraged to plant trees for wind-breaks, woodlots, erosion control, wildlife habitat and Christmas trees. Order forms including 28 different trees and shrubs are available from State and Extension Forestry, county Extension, and Soil Conservation District offices.

Field studies are under way in our tree improvement program to test, select and harvest seed from tree orchards used to identify and produce superior varieties of trees and shrubs better suited to Kansas growing conditions.



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ATTACHMENT #2-A



URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY

Tree boards, city foresters and park administrators receive planning and technical assistance in management of the city tree resource. Professional arborists are offered the latest information and training in tree care practices. Individuals and municipalities receive program support in Tree City USA, Global Re-leaf and other conservation programs designed for populated areas.

The Kansas Urban Forestry Council provides a forum for active volunteer involvement throughout the state. Membership includes tree board members, local government officials, nurserymen, arborists and citizens interested in improving their community environment with trees.

"Trees for Kansas" is designed to improve the environment by encouraging tree planting in communities and rural areas. The goal of the program is to plant 2.4 million trees annually during the 1990's. Promotional materials are available and certificates are awarded to participants.

Big birds bring big business

By JIM SUBER
The Capital-Journal

Turkeys let professional accountant Laura Atkinson come home to the farm to nurture her wee daughters and work alongside her husband, Rick. She is happy and grateful.

Atkinson is a member of the fast-growing group of commercial turkey growers in Cherokee County contracted with Butterball, a division of ConAgra. Most of Butterball's services — birds and feed and experts — come from nearby Carthage, Mo.

Fourteen turkey farms in the county are turning out annually more than a million toms weighing 30 to 35 pounds, with eight more in the construction or financing stage. Most of these birds are destined for the ConAgra processing plants to be used in turkey meats other than the traditional Thanksgiving bird-in-the-oag.

Some may call it factory farming and turn up their noses, but to Atkinson, the value of the turkey enterprise to her young family's wellness far exceeds the modest income that allows her to work at home. As for noses, the odors aren't bad, thanks to modern litter and handling techniques.

According to some information from a national turkey growers' group passed on by the Atkinsons, turkey consumption per person in the United States rose to 18 pounds a year by 1990 from just two pounds in 1930.

The arrangements, according to several growers, plus an influential former skeptic, seem to be working well for all concerned. Turkey raising in Kansas on such a scale and under the controversial integrated structure crossed the state line several years ago, but in the last year or two it has really grown.

The vertically integrated poultry industry has long been a two-edged sword in the minds of agriculturists and social scientists. Vertical integration means a company controls a product from beginning to end. It also can mean lots of efficient production of a product inexpensive for consumers. Recall please, the rise of chicken in the American dietary systems.

Within the contract farming concept is some room to negotiate some terms and work toward fairness, but the bottom line is that on-farm producers must give up some control and responsibility.

Garry Lacen, like most of the growers in the Cherokee group, has yet to see his 40th birthday, but he has been around the block working off-farm jobs from Oklahoma to California. He is glad to be able to stay put with his young family on their home turf. "It has drawbacks," Lacen said. "We don't have any say on the birds, the feed or the prices. You lose a lot of control but gain a lot of security."

Butterball owns the birds, brings them 11,000 at a time, a day old, in trays in a truck the size of a bread van. While the birds grow for 18 weeks they eat pelletized



The poultry industry is enjoying growth in southeast Kansas. There are now 14 turkey farms in Cherokee County, producing more than a million toms.

The rollover effect of raising turkeys

By JIM SUBER
The Capital-Journal

Soon Extension agricultural agent Ted Wary's Cherokee County will have 21 or 22 turkey farms, each turning out at least 70,000, 35-pound birds a year.

Wary put his pencil to work and came up with the following: The birds would consume 51,600 tons of feed, including 41,700 tons of corn, milo and wheat and 9,900 tons of soybean meal. The acreage required to grow such feed amounts is 19,800 for the grain and 19,800 for the soybeans.

As grower Garry Lacen points out now, the specific grain from Cherokee County might not go directly to the Butterball feed mills for pelletizing, but that which does makes a hole in the market for the county to help fill. When the turkey farms come on line they will use the equivalent of

five times the county's corn crop, 1.2 times the milo or wheat crops and one-fourth of the soybean crop.

The industry consumes large amounts of energy. When 21 farms are up — there are 14 now — they will use a combined 300,000 gallons of propane, one million kilowatt hours of electricity and 25 million gallons of water (much of it pre-treated).

The total cost of utilities will be \$230,000 annually, Wary calculated. The energy would be the amount required to operate 87 average farms in the county or enough to satisfy the needs of one-fourth of Columbus, the county seat.

The agent figured the growers would spend \$3.5 million into the community, including building payments, interest, taxes and family living expenses. That is the equivalent to \$450 for every family in the county.



Rick and Laura Atkinson of Cherokee are taking advantage of the increase in Americans' turkey consumption by sending young toms to market. —Chris Ochsner/The Capital-Journal

feed processed and delivered by the company, which also has field men monitoring flock health and progress.

When the birds are ready for slaughter, it requires nine semi-trailers to move them.

The growers pay for the four-barn complexes, which costs up to \$325,000, typically financed for 10 years either through the Small Business Administration or the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farmers Home Administration. ConAgra kicks in 18 percent of the cost of the buildings. Growers are able to turn out about 70,000 finished birds a year from each four-building unit.

"Our main job is to keep things running

and clean," Rick Atkinson said. It is nearly all automated, except for the litter exchange. Even curtains go up and down when a thermostat says so.

Keeping turkeys at certain stages of growth at certain comfort levels is vital to efficient growth. Automatic foggers help cool and maintain a proper humidity. All the farms must pass muster from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment regarding the disposal of dead birds and manure. The newest farms are composting the wastes. The safe compost is then used as fertilizer.

Even though the farms are keeping young people at home and adding much to the local economies, the idea of company-run

farms, contract farming, vertical integration or company-dominated towns is anathema to many Kansans.

But for Laura Atkinson, being on salary in an office miles from home away from her small daughters, Charla, 5, and Hannah, 2, from early morning to late evening most days wasn't a happy way to live.

Her training and intelligence are now at work on the farm and in the new Southeast Kansas Poultry Association's activities, which are designed to protect the growers and to educate outsiders.

She has a business degree in accounting

TURKEYS
CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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ATTACHMENT # 3

Turkeys Butterball may expand

Continued from preceding page

The Capital-Journal

from Pittsburg State. She had a salaried professional job in Galena. She feels strongly that children need and deserve to have their mothers, and she thinks society is beginning to show the ill effects of the lack of parental influence on children. In those terms she feels blessed, now, and credits the turkey business for making it possible.

"We're not rich but we are able to make a living," Laura Atkinson said. She teases that the turkeys live in better housing than the family, which occupies a mobile home. But home it is and a pretty place it is a half-mile north of Oklahoma.

The company guarantees \$1.17 a bird. Sometimes there is more. The barn payments run from \$3,000 to \$4,000 a month, or as high as \$48,000 a year. The growers also pay utilities — thousands a year for propane and electricity — and for part of the litter, which is softwood specially shaved and treated with antiseptic.

Cherokee County Extension agriculture agent Ted Wary had watched agriculture many years, and just over the borders in Missouri and Arkansas were fertile grounds for debate on the structure of production and effects on communities and environment.

He said he was "one of the key skeptics," having seen or heard about "big businesses coming in to places and offering farmers the moon and giving them nothing and producers ending up on the short end of the stick.

"I was very skeptical," Wary said. Economic data are still being compiled in order to compare turkey raising under the prevailing contracts to traditional grain and livestock endeavors. Meanwhile, Wary has watched and listened and studied.

The growers tell him they are happy. Many say they have never had it so good. The farms meet the environmental requirements, Wary added. The financing looks good in that all the growers, he thinks, are ahead in their payments.

"From the standpoint of an outsider looking in," Wary said, "it looks like the people from the turkey plant, the financiers, the Board of Health, the producers, are all going at in a sound business-like and environmental way." Bottom line, Wary thinks that so far it looks like a good deal for the home teams.

Lacen and his friend Rick Atkinson, who has two brothers also in the

Tom Howe, president of Butterball, said the feed mill at the Carthage, Mo., complex was operating at capacity, and the company was looking at several sites in both Kansas and Missouri to expand.

Howe praised the business climate of Kansas and the level of cooperation the firm had encountered. He said Butterball had worked closely with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment "to make sure we are complying with each regulation."

Howe said each turkey farm throughout the system would have a new composting system by Jan. 9, 1994. Most already do. It is used for fertilizer or sold once ConAgra, the parent agribusiness company, has assured itself the compost is sterile.

One of ConAgra's major principles, Howe said, is "sustainable development," whereby part of the operating strategy is to reduce waste, save energy, preserve water quality and the like.

Asked why the turkeys in southeast Kansas are toms and not hens, Howe answered that most of the bagged hen turkeys for traditional holiday roasting were grown in facilities on both coasts. The Carthage-based operation supplies turkey meat that is boned out and used in various processed forms.

business, think their agreements with ConAgra are "one of the strongest contracts in the industry."

Said Lacen: "A lot of chicken growers get only a flock to flock contract."

Atkinson's father, Marion, helps his sons. Rick and Laura Atkinson also have an 80-cow herd, which is in keeping with Kansas farm tradition.

The young group has already been battle-tested in politics. A while back the Property Valuation Department wanted to tax the buildings and their equipment as commercial. The association worked hard to appeal the enterprise as being agricultural, which lowered the potential tax bill.

Still, the property taxes on the Atkinson enterprise are right at \$3,400.

Another controversy arose when a Baxter Springs group protested the licensure of a grower near that town. The growers went to bat for him, brought in testimony for hearings and the result was a state permit and a contract.

One thrust of the growers' association is to reduce fear of the unknowns by non-growers, both city and country. This May 13 the association's second field tour will be dedicated to showing and explaining the operations to neighbors.

They will see an immense physical plant. The smallest barn, the brood house so to speak, is 300 feet long and 40 feet wide. It is outfitted with 20 round cages that descend from the ceiling to protect the chicks when very young. It has 40

propane stoves and numerous automatic waterers and feeders.

Three flocks of different age groups are often on the farms at the same time, for populations of more than 30,000. The younger the birds, the warmer they are kept, with the first few weeks being a toasty 95 degrees.

The intermediate stage building is 630 feet long, while two finishing barns are each 480 feet long.

The larger buildings are needed to accommodate the birds as they grow larger, averaging one-fourth pound a day or more for the 125 days on the farm.

The barns are built solidly on concrete foundations with steel trusses with specifications approved by ConAgra. Their estimated life is 20 years, but the internal equipment is expected to wear out a few years sooner.

Laura and Rick Atkinson said that ConAgra is talking about building a feed mill in Cherokee County to service the group. It expanded into Cherokee, they said, because the territory was within servicing distance of Carthage and because Cherokee was relatively disease free in terms of turkey ailments. Theoretically, a new feed mill in Cherokee would allow expansion further into Kansas, because the feed delivery is the main constraint, the growers said.

A Butterball grow-out manager at Carthage, Bruce Crumpacker, said all information was supposed to come from Butterball headquarters near Chicago, but he did say, "We're pleased with the operations over there, that's all I can say."

STATE OF KANSAS



DIVISION OF THE BUDGET

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FAX (913) 296-0231

Joan Finney
Governor

Gloria M. Timmer
Director

February 22, 1993

The Honorable Eugene Shore, Chairperson
Committee on Agriculture
Statehouse, Room 446-N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Shore:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2436 by House Committee on
Agriculture

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2436 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2436 would amend the duties of the Office of Extension Forestry. The Office is part of the Cooperative Extension Service of Kansas State University. The bill would amend the duties of the Office to include assisting forest landowners in the management of forests for water quality, streams and stabilization, erosion control, wildlife, and recreation. The bill would also specify that the Office assist nonforest landowners in establishing conservation plantings; aid cities in planting, maintaining, treating, and removing trees on public property; and provide information to cities, tree care professionals, and the general public in tree planting and care.

Kansas State University states that the Office of Extension Forestry is currently engaged in the activities specified in HB 2436 and that the bill would have no fiscal impact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gloria M. Timmer".

Gloria M. Timmer
Director of the Budget

cc: Dr. Tom Rawson, KSU
2436.fn

HOUSE AGRICULTURE
2-23-93
ATTACHMENT #4