

Approved: 1-11-96
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson David Corbin at 10:00 a.m. on January 9, 1996 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Lila McClafin, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Marc A. Johnson, Dean of Agriculture
Richard R. Hahn, Head, Department of Grain Science and Industry
Jack G. Riley, Head, Department of Animal Sciences and Industry
Daniel J. Bernardo, Head, Department of Agricultural Economics

Others attending: See attached list

Chairperson Corbin welcomed the members and guests to the 1996 session. He announced the committee would be meeting on Thursday, January 11, to consider requests for bill introductions. Discussion followed on some of the proposals that would be considered before the committee this session. Some of the proposed subjects were: weights and measures; value added; meat packing inspection program; moving the marketing of agricultural products from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Commerce; application of corporate farming on a statewide basis; and possibly some changes in the companion animal laws. Chairperson Corbin called on Dr. Marc Johnson, Kansas State University, to give an overview of the programs in the Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station programs. A copy of this report Adding Value to Kansas Agricultural Products is on file in the chairperson's office or Legislative Research Department.

Dr. Johnson introduced Richard R. Hahn, Jack G. Riley, and Daniel J. Bernardo. He said each of them would address selected value-added advances in their departments. He provided an overview of the value-added advances and impact their research has on Kansas products, processes, and small business.

Richard R. Hahn, Head, Department of Grain Science and Industry, reported on adding value to food and feed grains and distributed some samples of products they have developed. He said they have been doing research to develop new uses for wheat starch.

Jack G. Riley, Head, Department of Animal Sciences and Industry, reported on adding value to meat and livestock products and the impact their research has on providing quality and safe meat products. Special attention is being given to develop consumer ready products and convenience items. Beef, in particular, has been criticized for lack of consistency and answers to those issues involving consistency can best be determined by continuing research efforts.

Daniel J. Bernardo, Head, Department of Agricultural Economics, stressed the economic impact of value added activities. He said an important component of KSU's research and extension programs focuses on quantifying these impacts to assist private and public decision makers in identifying those activities that yield the highest return on investment.

Dr. Johnson responded to some questions regarding the federal and state resources available for the value added programs.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 11, 1996.

