

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Johnson at 3:30 p.m. on February 9, 2000, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
 Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes Office
 Kay Scarlett, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Clint Riley, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
Dr. Marc Johnson, Dean, Kansas State University College of Agriculture, and Director, K-State Research and Extension
Dr. Rhonda Janke, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist, Kansas State University
Representative Gwen Welshimer
Stephen Moring, President, Botanica Analytica Research Laboratories
Mary Fund, Communications Director, Kansas Rural Center
Rev. Dr. Joe Hendrixson, Executive Director, Kansas Ecumenical Ministries
Paul Johnson, Kansas Catholic Conference
Charles Benjamin, Kansas Natural Resource Council and Kansas Sierra Club
Bill Fuller, Associate Director, Public Affairs Division, Kansas Farm Bureau

Others attending: See attached list

Minutes of the February 2 meeting were distributed. Chairman Johnson asked members to notify the committee secretary of any corrections or additions prior to 5:00 p.m., February 10, or they will be considered approved as presented.

Hearing on HB 2762 - Inspections of controlled shooting areas.

Chairman Johnson opened the hearing on **HB 2762** and asked Raney Gilliland to brief the committee on the bill. He explained that current law requires that all controlled shooting areas be inspected when an application for a license is received by the Department of Wildlife and Parks. This bill would require an inspection for all new applications for a license to operate a controlled shooting area, but would leave it to the discretion of the department whether or not to reinspect when a renewal application for a controlled shooting area is received.

Clint Riley, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, appeared in support of **HB 2762**. He explained that under this proposal all new license applications for a controlled shooting area would still require an inspection; it would, however, provide the department the flexibility of whether or not to reinspect the area when a renewal application is received relieving department staff of unnecessary and time-consuming inspections. (Attachment 1)

As there were no other conferees, Chairman Johnson closed the hearing on **HB 2762**.

Hearing on HB 2616 - Establishing a center of excellence at KSU for sustainable agriculture and alternative crops.

Chairman Johnson opened the hearing on **HB 2616** and asked Raney Gilliland to explain the bill. It was explained that this bill would establish a center of excellence on sustainable agriculture and alternative crops at Kansas State University to emphasize research, education, outreach, and marketing. The funding for the

CONTINUATION SHEET

center of excellence is to be redirected funds from within the existing budget for the extension system and agriculture research programs at Kansas State University.

Dr. Marc Johnson, Dean of the Kansas State University College of Agriculture and Director of K-State Research and Extension, appeared in support of the intent of **HB 2616**, but said that at the present time K-State does not have the positions or funds to add a center of excellence. He reported that substantial work is already taking place at K-State in the areas of sustainable agriculture and alternative crops. He said that K-State already has the administrative apparatus and project teams to support the areas of sustainable agriculture and minimum tillage. He reported that K-State faculty have initiated studies on the feasibility of several alternative enterprises and have responded with assistance on alternative enterprises suggested from outside the university. Dr. Johnson said that K-State Research and Extension is receptive to additional ideas for sustainable agriculture and alternative enterprises at a pace their present resources will allow. ([Attachment 2](#))

Dr. Rhonda Janke, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist, Kansas State University, appeared in support of **HB 2616**. She discussed the interest in alternative crops and organic farming and the opportunity to bring more income into Kansas, specifically, related to medicinal herbs. ([Attachment 3](#))

Representative Gwen Welshimer testified in strong support for **HB 2616** to establish a center of excellence in Kansas for the scientific study of medicinal plants. She discussed the rapid development and profitability of Echinacea and other medicinal herbs in Europe and the United States. She said that Kansas has the assets in place to focus on this industry and become a global center of excellence for regulated quality assurance in the cultivation and manufacturing of phytomedicinals. She explained the organization of the Great Plains Comprehensive Agriculture and Medical Institute (CAMI) and its focus on plant medicine, from (1) research, to (2) crop, to (3) quality control, to (4) manufacturing, to (5) state inspection, to (6) wholesale, to (7) retail, to the (8) export of products that no other location in the world guarantees for quality and purity through state regulation. ([Attachment 4](#))

Stephen Moring, President, Botanica Analytica Research Laboratories, and steering committee member, Kansas Organic Medicinal Plant Growers Association, testified in support of **HB 2616** and discussed the opportunities for production of alternative phytomedicinal crops in Kansas. ([Attachment 5](#))

Mary Fund, Communications Director, Kansas Rural Center, appeared in support of **HB 2616**. She reported that their organization has worked with K-State Research and Extension on a number of projects and believes that establishing a center of excellence on sustainable agriculture and alternative crops would 1) enable the university to better coordinate their existing efforts; 2) focus the university on developing new research efforts for sustainable agriculture and alternative crops; and 3) provide the university a platform for seeking funding from other outside sources interested in these issues. The Kansas Rural Center believes the state should appropriate additional dollars to assist K-State in setting up this center and would also like to see an advisory board established to develop and guide this concept into implementation. ([Attachment 6](#))

Rev. Dr. Joe Hendrixson, Executive Director, Kansas Ecumenical Ministries, testified in support of **HB 2616**. The Kansas Ecumenical Ministries believe the establishment of a center of excellence on sustainable agriculture and alternative crops is a sound investment morally and economically for the future of agriculture and the vitality of rural communities in Kansas. He included a copy of "A Christian Perspective for a Better Future," a summary of their 1999 study of Kansas agriculture and rural communities. ([Attachment 7](#))

Paul Johnson, Kansas Catholic Conference, a full-time market gardener, and board member of the Kansas Rural Center, appeared in support of **HB 2616**. He believes a public/private partnership is necessary to help promote sustainable agriculture and alternative crops and that this new center should get its fair share of economic development funds. He said this center would synthesize what is already being done for sustainable agriculture at K-State, identify what work needs to be done, and move Kansas down the path of responding to this new agriculture market. He also believes the center should have an advisory board to set priorities, inform the public, and promote the center. ([Attachment 8](#))

Charles Benjamin, representing The Kansas Natural Resource Council and Kansas Sierra Club, spoke in support of **HB 2616** to establish a center of excellence for sustainable agriculture and alternative crops. He said that both of these organizations strongly favor an agricultural system that is sustainable, a system that is viable economically, environmentally, and socially. He believes the state should appropriate additional

CONTINUATION SHEET

dollars to help K-State establish this center and should set up an advisory board to develop and guide this concept into implementation. (Attachment 9)

Bill Fuller, Associate Director, Public Affairs Division, Kansas Farm Bureau, expressed support for **HB 2616**, but cautioned against redirecting funds from within the existing budget of K-State Research and Extension that might weaken, or possibly destroy, important functions now provided by K-State that are vital to the family farmers and rural communities of the state. He encouraged the committee to review current activities and programs at K-State that are already focusing on alternative crops and sustainable agriculture. He suggested that possibly a plan that repackages these activities to increase their visibility would achieve the same goal as establishing the center of excellence without creating another expensive level of administration. (Attachment 10)

Chairman Johnson closed the hearing on **HB 2616**.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2000.

HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: February 9, 2000

NAME	REPRESENTING
Kevin Jones	Dept. Wildlife & Parks
Clint Biley	" " "
Kathy Patton	Speaker's office
BRAD D. RAYL	KANSAS STATE FAIR
Pat Lehman	KRPA
Peter Kimble	KANP
Gwen Welshman	House
Steve Morning	BAR Laboratories
Stanley Darrle D.D.	KANP
Nina Atencio	Bottenberg Assoc. - Ethanol Producers
Sally Kyle	WU. Social Work Class.
Paul Johnson	KCC
Mary Fund	Ks. Rural Center
Rhonda Janke	KSU
Joe Hendrixson	Kansas Ecumenical Ministries
Chris Collins	Kansas Medical Society
Jeff Bottenberg	Kansas Soc. Agr. Ass'n
Greg Krussick	Kansas Dept Ag
Steven Graham	K-State Research & Extension



STATE OF KANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & PARKS

Office of the Secretary
900 SW Jackson, Suite 502
Topeka, KS 66612-1233
785/296-2281 FAX 785/296-6953



HOUSE BILL NO. 2762

**Testimony Provided to
House Committee on Agriculture
February 9, 2000**

House Bill No. 2762 would provide added flexibility for the Department of Wildlife and Parks when licensing controlled shooting areas in Kansas. Under current law, the department is required to inspect premises, facilities, and operating abilities of every applicant for a controlled shooting area. Not only can these inspections be time-consuming, but often it becomes difficult for department personnel and the applicant to schedule a date for the inspection.

HB 2762 amends current law by requiring inspection only upon new application for a controlled shooting area license. Thus, if an applicant has been inspected in recent years, and the department has no reason to believe conditions of the premises have changed, no inspection would be required. Nonetheless, the amendment would allow the department to inspect renewal license applicants at its discretion, to ensure that authority remains when there is reason to believe a previously licensed controlled shooting area might no longer meet necessary qualifications.

This added flexibility for inspection of controlled shooting areas should relieve both controlled shooting area operators and department staff of unnecessary and time-consuming red tape. Therefore, the department supports HB 2762.

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House Agriculture Committee
February 9, 2000
Attachment 1

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE AND HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEES
Regarding SB 534 and HB 2616
Establishing a Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Alternative Crops
Dr. Marc A. Johnson
February 9, 2000

Good morning (afternoon). I am Dr. Marc A. Johnson, Dean of the Kansas State University College of Agriculture and Director of the Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service (K-State Research and Extension). I am here regarding SB 534 (HB 2616) relating to establishment of a Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Alternative Crops within K-State Research and Extension. K-State Research and Extension certainly supports the programmatic intent of this bill. Substantial work in these areas already is taking place in our labs, our fields, and with our cooperators.

Sustainable Agriculture

In the summer of 1993, K-State Research and Extension created an informal working group of scientists and educators with interests in natural resources and environmental aspects of agriculture. By 1996, this group formalized the Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment (KCARE). The purpose of the Center is to reach across college and departmental boundaries to bring scientific expertise to bear on major natural resource and environmental issues related to agriculture, provide research to develop tools for management, and offer extension education to inform producers of their actions. Recent reports to the Legislature related accomplishments of KCARE in irrigation water management, best management practices to prevent soil and chemical runoff, and animal waste lagoon studies.

KCARE also has a soil quality group. The very first activity of KCARE's informal predecessor group was to host a Sustainable Agriculture Symposium, in spring, 1994. About 250 people attended. By fall, 1994, we had hired the research director from Rodale Institute, one of the nation's leading sustainable agriculture research-centers. Since that time, numerous scientists have worked closely with the Kansas Rural Center on grant projects involving clusters of farm families learning sustainable farming practices. Our scientists have sought and won Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education (SARE) grants and held county extension agent trainings and public demonstrations in sustainable agricultural practices. K-State Research and Extension has an active, multidisciplinary team of scientists working on "Sustainable and Organic Cropping Systems," with collaborators including the Kansas Rural Center, Kansas Organic Producers, Haskell Indian Nations University, the Prairie Band Potawatomie Tribe, and the Kansas Corn Growers Association. We have faculty who have received outstanding service awards from the Kansas Rural Center. On February 3 of this year, three faculty and one producer delivered a 4 ½ hour workshop on "Organic Vegetable Cropping Systems" (see attachment). Throughout this year, K-State will be conducting whole farm assessments, including many sustainable practice options to operate river friendly farms.

Additionally, the soil quality group is performing numerous studies on minimum-till and no-till farming practices using an array of crop rotations, cover crops, and chemicals to maintain higher

yields with lower inputs. This group also is studying optimal ways to use agriculture to remove elevated levels of CO₂ from the air, which has been linked to climate change.

K-State Research and Extension efforts in sustainable and organic agriculture are growing as an increased number of scientists see the complementarity of sustainable themes with their disciplinary expertise and as grant funds are captured to expand work in this field.

Alternative Crops

The subject of alternative crops is quite separate. For a new crop to succeed in Kansas, the state, or at least a few producers, must have a comparative advantage in its production and marketing, that is, it must be adapted to Kansas climate and soils so it will produce relatively high yields and it must be positioned well geographically so Kansas grown production can be marketed competitively. Additionally, these crops should be complementary with patterns of machinery ownership, labor use, crop rotation, storage facilities, and transportation systems which exist. When a new farm enterprise is evaluated, we pull together a team of specialists with relevant expertise. Each enterprise will involve a different team of specialists.

Farm enterprises can be categorized as small-acre or large-acre enterprises. Wheat would be a large-acre enterprise and asparagus would be a small-acre enterprise. Small-acre crops K-State works with are turf grass, vegetables, fruit, cut flowers, and bedding plants. Representative Welsheimer requested assistance last summer on crop growth aspects of Echinacea; K-State responded with two horticultural specialists and an agricultural economist to spend a part of their time on the project. That group came together to include K-State, KU and the KU Medical Center to write a grant to the National Institutes of Health to establish a multifaceted center of activity in the production, utilization and marketing of medicinal plants. This is an example of how universities work by pulling together existing expertise for a time to address an issue and seek grant funds to sustain an effort.

K-State also is working with a number of large-acre alternate crops. Canola is a crop which will fit into a rotation with wheat very nicely and is an oilseed crop with a low saturated fat oil preferred by consumers. The difficulty with this crop is that it is a spring crop in North Dakota and Idaho, where it has been grown, but it is a fall planted crop here and we have had problems with winter kill. So, using grant funds, we hired a canola breeder who last year released his second winter hardy variety. The Department of Commerce Agricultural Products Development Division is paying the freight to get the small volume of canola seed to a Colorado crushing plant, until the Kansas grown volume is sufficiently large to attract other crushers.

K-State also is working with cotton, sunflowers, processing sweetcorn (north central Kansas), high oil corn, human edible soybeans for tofu, food grade sorghum, white wheat, noodle quality wheat, dry beans, safflower, winter durham wheat, and amaranth. All of these crops must be studied for crop production characteristics in Kansas climates, insect and disease stresses and controls, and market feasibility. One could even say that testing corn in a standard wheat-sorghum-fallow rotation to gain higher total value, is an alternate crop approach. We also are working with small dairies to show them how to grow to an economically efficient size with planned facility and waste handling capacity.

Conclusion

In response to the Governor's Budget Office request for fiscal note information for HB 2616 and SB 534, K-State commented that K-State does not have the positions or funds to add a Center on Sustainable Agriculture and Alternative Crops. This was stated in the context of the level of research and extension work already being conducted in these areas. K-State already has an administrative apparatus and project teams to support the areas of sustainable agriculture and minimum tillage. K-State faculty have initiated studies on the feasibility of several alternative enterprises and have responded with assistance on alternative enterprises suggested from outside the university. K-State Research and Extension has open doors to work with additional ideas for sustainable agriculture and alternative enterprises at a pace our present resources will allow.

Sponsors

K-State Research & Extension
Clay County Office
Geary County Office
Marshall County Office
Riley County Office
Washington County Office
Dept. of Horticulture,
Forestry, and Recreation
Resources

**"Knowledge
for Life"**

All educational programs and
materials available without
discrimination on the basis of race,
color, religion, national origin, sex,
age, or disability.

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DEPT OF AGRICULTURE
H.C.

Organic Vegetable Cropping Systems

Thursday, February 3
10:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.

Pottorf Hall
Riley County Fair Grounds
Manhattan

Program

Thursday, February 3, 2000

10:00 A.M. - Managing Vegetable Crops, Chuck Marr

10:30 A.M. - Break

10:45 A.M. - Growers Perspective, Dave Warriner

Noon - Lunch Provided

1:00 P.M. - Soil Quality & Fertility, Rhonda Janke

2:00 P.M. - Break

2:15 P.M. - Strategies for Organic Controls of Diseases, Ned Tisserat

3:15 P.M. - Closing Comments

3:30 P.M. - Adjourn

Speakers

David Warriner,
Grower from Perry, Ks.

Ned Tisserat, Ph.D.
Extension Plant Pathology
Specialist, Horticulture Crops
Kansas State University

Rhonda Janke, Ph.D.
Extension Specialist
Kansas State University

Chuck Marr, Ph.D.
Extension State Leader
Horticulture & Vegetable
Specialist
Kansas State University

Audience

The organic vegetable cropping systems program is designed for:

- ✿ Farmers' Market Vendors
- ✿ Entrapaneurs
- ✿ Roadside Market Producers
- ✿ Master Gardeners
- ✿ Others Interested in growing vegetables

Objectives

At the conclusion of this program, participants should be better prepared to grow crops using a variety of proven strategies which increases marketable crops and improves the environment.

Registration

Please call 537-6350 to pre-register by February 1.

Registration fee is \$10 per person which is payable at the door. Make checks payable to Educational Activities.



Kansas State University

Cooperative Extension Service
K-State Research and Extension
Horticulture
3601 Throckmorton Plant
Sciences Center
Manhattan, KS 66506 -5507
785-532-6173
Fax: 785-532-5780
http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/dp_hfrr

**Testimony for Kansas Senate and House Agricultural
Committees: "A Center of Excellence on Sustainable Agriculture
and Alternative Crops" -- February 9, 2000**

Rhonda R. Janke
Associate Professor and Extension Specialist
Sustainable Cropping Systems

There are opportunities:

For getting more income into agriculture:

New crops - medicinal herbs

High value crops - fruits, vegetables, culinary herbs, cut flowers

Kansas only grows 6% of the apples consumed by its' citizens, 2% of the cucumbers, 6% of the potatoes, 4% of the tomatoes....The Institute for Public Policy and Business Research found that 40% of Kaw Valley consumers surveyed purchased produce at a local farmer's market, and 36% purchased organic food at least occasionally. 59% ranked "availability of locally grown produce" as important to the choice of their grocery store.

New methods - organic can bring a premium price, increase consumer interest, possible export potential for some crops. About 1% of U.S. crops are now organic, while between 5% and 10% of European crops are certified organic. Room for growth - 20% a year now and past 5 years in the U.S.

Keeping more \$ in the community - substituting cultivation for herbicide, legumes for fertilizer, keeps the dollars on the farm and in the community. Savings on input costs with planning.

Reduce environmental cost and regulation

Whole farm environmental planning and pro-active remediation can reduce cost to society of water quality treatment facilities and water quality protection enforcement/regulation.

For bringing more income into Kansas specifically related to medicinal herbs:

NIH Botanical Center Grant - \$1.5 million per year over 5 years if successful for research on Echinacea and other immunesystem stimulants.

NIH Natural Products Development, grow and test herbs for other NIH Centers - another \$1.5 million per herb, up to 4 herbs possible (valerian, milk thistle, feverfew, and echinacea)

Kansas Medicinal Herb Marketing Co-op may be able to bring premium price to Kansas growers for top quality product

CAMI (Comprehensive Agriculture and Medical Institute) brings together the right mix of people to foster other collaborative ventures.

Kansas State University
Agricultural Experiment
Station and Cooperative
Extension Service

K-State, County Extension
Councils, Extension Districts,
and U.S. Department of
Agriculture Cooperating.

All educational programs
and materials available
without discrimination on
the basis of race, color,
religion, national origin,
sex, age, or disability.

There is interest:

In Medicinal herbs:

Echinacea interest list had 561 names past December - about 2 calls per week since first meeting in the spring of 1997, plus numerous people sign up at various talks and presentations, for a total of 4.3 inquiries per week on medicinal herbs.

In Organic farming/growing:

Price of grains attracting attention - \$12 to \$20 per bushel for soybeans, and \$5 - 6 for wheat. Vegetable premium price anywhere from zero to 200%, average premium probably 10-20%.

In Alternative crops and marketing:

Example phone calls in past 2 ½ weeks-

Wildflower seed - Osage County

Truffles - Norton County

Freshwater Shrimp - Miami County

Where to market white corn and chick peas - Rawlins County

How to set up a green labeling program - Wichita County

Ft. Hays Small Business Association - information on medicinal crops for their files.

Three requests to speak on the topic of organic certification

One request for information on how to certify, and another request for information to pass on to local tax assessor demonstrating that organic farming is "real" farming.

Assist landscape architecture students with sustainable ag enterprises for the "Homestead Farm" in Jackson County.

Plus, seven requests for information on Echinacea and/or other medicinal or pharmaceutical crops.

GWEN WELSHIMER
 REPRESENTATIVE, EIGHTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT
 SEDGWICK COUNTY
 6103 CASTLE
 WICHITA, KANSAS 67218
 316-685-1930
 DURING SESSION
 LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE
 1-800-432-3924
 OFF: 785-296-7687



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 BUSINESS, COMMERCE & LABOR
 KANSAS 2000
 LOCAL GOVERNMENT
 REP., NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF
 STATE LEGISLATURES

HOUSE OF
 REPRESENTATIVES

February 9, 2000

TO: HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
 Rep. Dan Johnson, Chair and committee members

TESTIMONY BY REP. GWEN WELSHIMER ON "GREAT PLAINS CAMI"

ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN KANSAS FOR THE
 SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF MEDICINAL PLANTS

Kansas needs a new sustainable, exportable agricultural industry, not to replace our bountiful grain industry, but to diversify and add value. As a state, we've been ignoring the rapid development of a profitable major industry for the Great Plains. Consumers are demanding organic products and organic botanical medicines, and this demand is growing about 100% per year.

Consumers are spending billions of dollars on natural food and medicines. We now have supermarkets for them. The latest estimates are that 60% of consumers choose some form of alternative medical care, and they spend about six billion dollars per year on natural medicines that we now call "PHYTOMEDICINES." About 105 native plants have been identified in Kansas, and how many remain to be identified is unknown.

Kansas has assets in place to focus on this industry and become a global center of excellence for regulated quality assurance in the cultivation and manufacturing of phytomedicinals.

To begin, we need to organize and develop research. GREAT PLAINS COMPREHENSIVE AGRICULTURE AND MEDICAL INSTITUTE, better known as "CAMI," was organized in July of this year to meet that challenge. The founding members are:

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY - Dr. Rhonda Janke (Horticulture), Dr. Alan Stevens (Dir., Horticulture Research and Extension Centers), Mr. David Coltrain, Agricultural Economist.

KANSAS UNIVERSITY - Higuchi Biosciences Center, Kelly Kindscher

House Agriculture Committee
 February 9, 2000
 Attachment 4

and Steve Moring.

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS MEDICAL CENTER - Jeannie Drisko, M.D. and Jane Murray, M.D.

WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY - Dr. Toni Pickard, Dept. of Health Policy.

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY - Jerry Farley, President.

KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE - Stan Beyrle, N.D., Medi Kosh, N.D., and Farhang Kosh, N.D.

NATIONAL COLLEGE OF NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE, Portland, Oregon - Dr. Clyde Jensen, President.

UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES (OSTEOPATHIC UNIV., MISSOURI) - Dr. Lynn Walker.

KANSAS HOLISTIC VETERINARIAN ASSN. - Dr. Randy Kidd

KTEC - Richard Bendis, President, Andreanna Kounas, V.P.- Research.

KANSAS COMMISSION ON VETERAN'S AFFAIRS - Dr. Lea Steele, Dir.

DEPT. OF COMMERCE AND HOUSING - Lee Masenthin, Agriculture.

PRIVATE INDUSTRY: PINES INTERNATIONAL (Value-added private industry, Kansas wheat grass products) - Mr. Allen Levine, Marketing Dir.

KANSAS LEGISLATURE - Sen. Larry Salmans (R) and Rep. Gwen Welshimer (D).

CAMI is focusing on plant medicine, from (1) research to (2) crop to (3) quality control (4) to manufacturing to (5) state inspection, (6) to wholesale, (7) to retail and (8) export of products that no other location in the world guarantees for quality and purity through state regulation.

Many of these plant medicines are nearing extinction in the Great Plains because they are being picked for sale to manufacturers and for private use. Eighty percent appears to be shipped to foreign countries for manufacturing. Other native plants have never been examined for medicinal value and will be lost permanently. It appears that only cultivation will save what is left, and this depends on how we address this issue at our state

level.

A cultivated field of Kansas Snake Root or Cone Flower, with medicinal name Echinacea, had a market value per 100 acres harvested in 1998 of \$1,300,000, maybe more. The seed sells for \$300 per pound, maybe more. We have no data collection or statistics available other than what the industry gathers to predict their own profits. Profits are good, however, so we shouldn't discount their numbers.

CAMI is structuring to qualify for ongoing grants from the National Institute of Health. This is an effort in the right place at the right time. The N.I.H. has billions in research dollars and is looking for innovative research projects in natural/naturopathic medicine. Bastyr University, a naturopathic medical school, has received \$12 million per year from the N.I.H. which is to date, \$60 million.

CAMI has the attention of the N.I.H. because we are adding the agricultural component. There is very great potential for CAMI to bring hundreds of millions of dollars to Kansas and because we are unique in this way.

The state of Utah is ahead of us in phytomedicinal agriculture and manufacturing, but they do not have CAMI and our world-recognized research universities involved.

CAMI needs recognition from the legislature. The N.I.H. needs to know we are sincere and will not fade away. My original request to the Special Committee on Agriculture was for \$199,366 in appropriations with an explanation of research projects for each of four Kansas research institutions.

If the \$350,000 being address today includes the funding I have described, and it passes favorably through the process, Great Plains CAMI will be in a very good position to accomplish its goals.

I have also introduced HCR 5063 addressed to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Secretary of Health, and our Kansas Congressional members which recognizes organized efforts of CAMI to create a center of excellence in medicinal plants in Kansas.

Please give CAMI your support, it will be rewarding.

Farm & Markets

Natural food chains say customers demanded ban on biotech foods

The nation's two largest natural food supermarket chains say they are just giving customers what they want by banning genetically modified ingredients from their hundreds of private-label products.

"The truth is, we don't know what the effects of GMOs are, and we think consumers should have the right to choose," says John Mackey, chief executive of Whole Foods. About 12 percent of Whole Foods' \$1.6 billion in sales in the fiscal year ending September 1999 were derived from sales of its more than 600 private-label products. Austin, Texas-based Whole Foods Market Inc. operates 103 stores in 22 states.

The 110-store Wild Oats Markets Inc. of Boulder, Colo., is also banning genetically modified ingredients. Similar bans have been put in place by European supermarket chains concerned about food safety.

Wild Oats derives about 10 percent of its revenue from almost 1,000 of its branded products, says company president Jim Lee.

The move, which follows a ban by several major baby food manufacturers and calls by members of Congress for special labeling, could further intensify public outcry over genetically modified organisms, or GMOs, which experts estimate are in 60 percent of all grocery products through genetically engineered corn or soybeans.

However, supermarket industry officials and food manufacturing associations say most mainstream supermarket chains are unlikely to adopt similar restrictions because they don't consider GMOs a health

NOTE TO READERS

Because commodities markets were closed for New Year's Eve, no commodities prices appear on this page today. They will return Tuesday.

risk and because it would prove too expensive.

"The majority of foods do have some biotech ingredients in them," said Lisa McCue, spokeswoman for the Grocery Manufacturers Association of America.

Indeed, analysts say, it's much easier for natural foods chains to ban genetically modified ingredients because many of their products are organic and these foods by definition cannot contain genetically altered ingredients. Some analysts said these chains were exploiting consumer fears to sell more of these profitable products. But officials from both chains say they are responding to customer demand.

"We are receiving tons of letters and e-mail," Mackey says. "A lot of our customers don't want GMOs in their food."

The Food and Drug Administration has said it considered genetically engineered foods safe, carrying no greater risk than food grown from conventional seed. However, public concern over the potential long-term health risks has prompted the agency to solicit public comment on its policies. The FDA currently allows genetically altered material in food, as long as it doesn't contain allergens or substantially alter the nutritional content of the food.

Organic farming thriving in Europe

European Union now has more than 100,000 organic farms

BY PAUL AMES
Associated Press

STAVELOT, Belgium — Jean-Pierre Bastin beams with pride as he shows off his dairy herd grazing on the lush hilltop pastures his family has farmed for four generations.

But a grimace wipes away the organic farmer's smile at the mention of the health scares staining the reputation of Europe's farm products.

"It's revolting. We're doing our best to produce quality food, and there are farmers out there who'll do anything for money. It gives us all a bad name," Bastin says, his breath clouding the chill morning air.

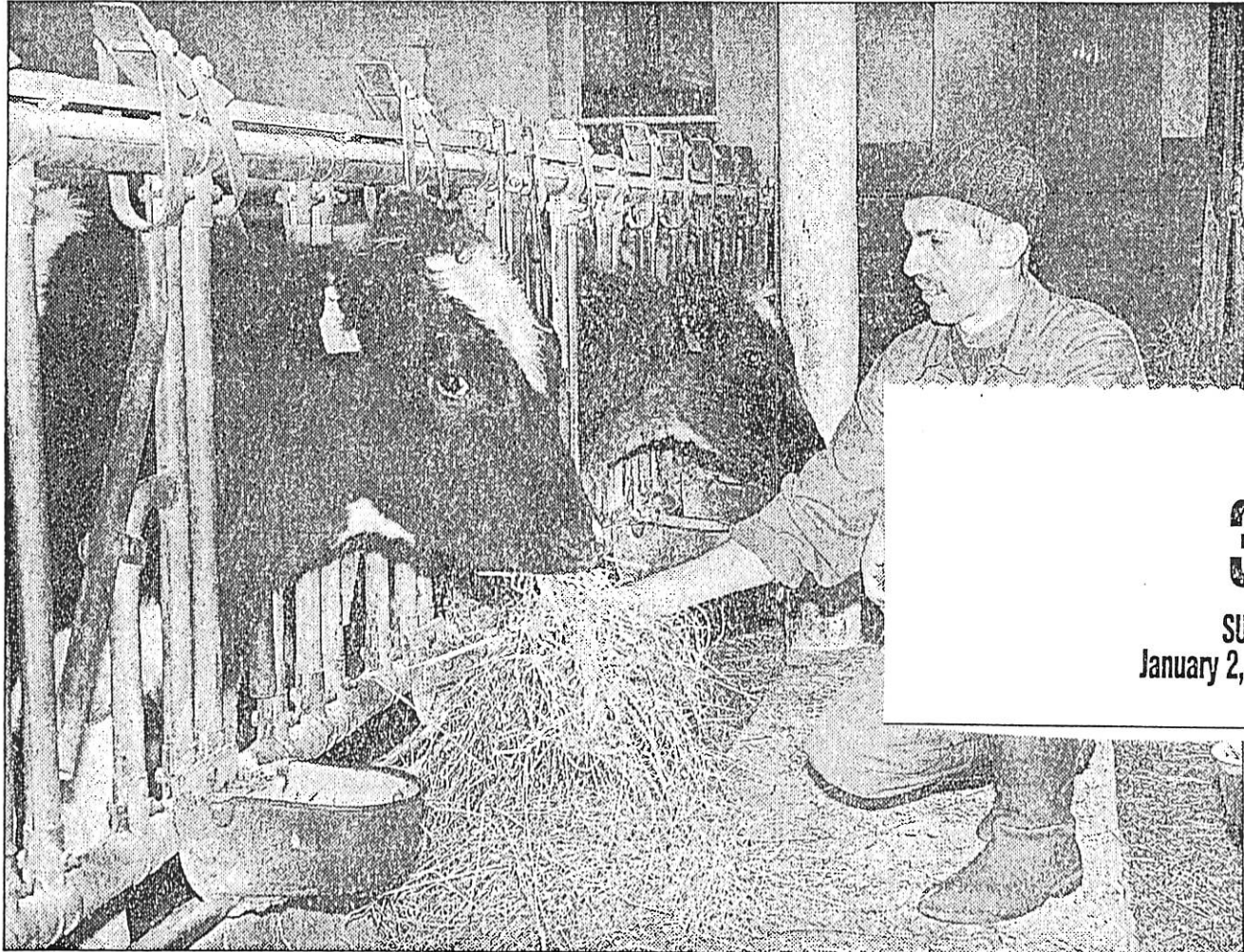
Bastin, 44, is part of a new breed of European farmer bucking the trend toward intensive, industrialized agriculture, which many people blame for the mad-cow crisis in Britain, Belgium's dioxin scandal and revelations of French cattle fattened on sewage sludge.

Building on mounting consumer distrust of such chemical-dependent farming, Europe's organic agriculture is growing faster than a hormone-injected steer.

The sector once dismissed as the pastime of crackpots and idealists has grown into a business worth some \$7.3 billion a year in the European Union and around \$15.6 billion worldwide, says Nicolas Lampkin, an agriculture specialist at the University of Wales in Aberystwyth.

A report Lampkin prepared for the EU this year said the number of organic farms in the bloc had soared from just 6,300 in 1985 to more than 100,000 in 1998.

Even with that spectacular growth, organic farmers are struggling to cope with demand, Lampkin says.



3B

SUNDAY
January 2, 2000

Associated Press

Jean-Pierre Bastin feeds one of the cows on his organic dairy farm in Stavelot, Belgium. Although Bastin's 45 cows produce less now that they are on an organic diet, he gets triple the price for their milk.

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4-6

"The food scares have played a role, but there's a more general expectation for better food standards, higher quality among consumers . . . they want to avoid genetically modified organisms in particular," he says.

By 2005, Lampkin expects 10 percent of all agricultural land in western Europe will be organic, farming that uses only animal or vegetable fertilizers and does without chemical pesticides, growth hormones and the like. Austria has already passed 10 percent; Switzerland and Sweden are not far behind.

Bastin made the switch to organic in 1994.

"I'd had enough of chemical fertilizers. I wanted to work more with nature, closer to the soil," Bastin explains as he feeds armfuls of hay to his black-and-white Holstein-Friesian calves. "My grandfather did it that way, why can't I?"

Bastin, who sells his milk to a nearby organic cheese-maker, says there are 15 organic dairy farmers in the Ardennes region of high plateau and wooded valleys close to the German border in eastern Belgium, and 50 more are in the process of converting their land to organic production.

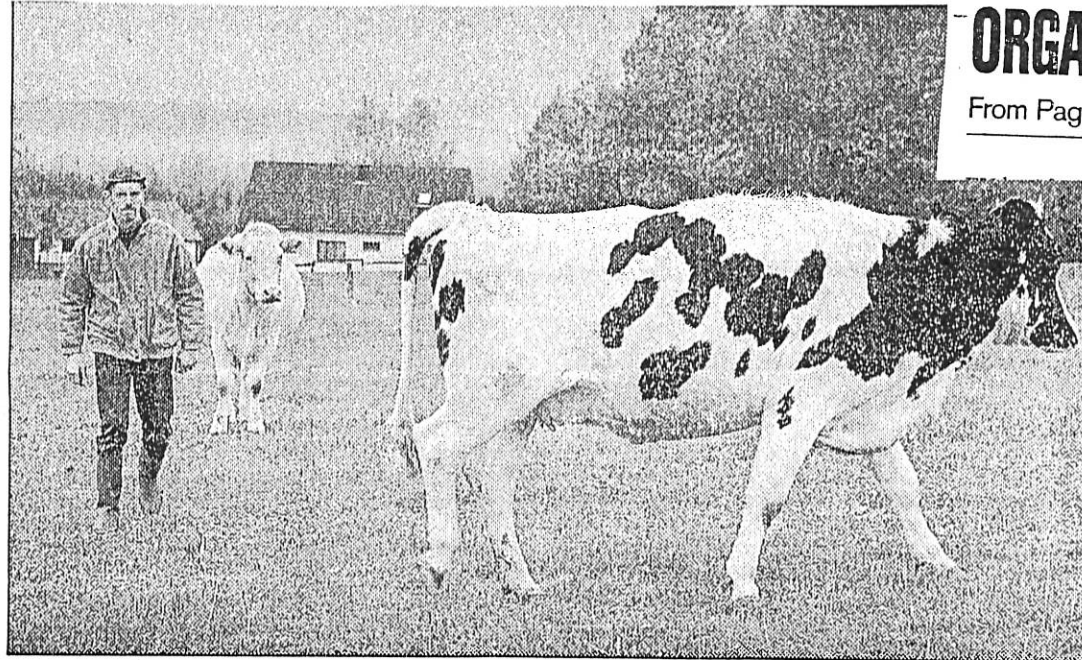
Lampkin says the rapid development of organic production was facilitated in the early 1990s by

EU legislation that set common standards across the 15-nation bloc and allowed for government subsidies to help farmers break their dependence on artificial fertilizers and pesticides.

The Belgian government paid Bastin \$308 for each of his 135 acres during the two-year statutory conversion period before his farm could be licensed as organic.

Farmers can also get higher prices for organic goods. Although Bastin's 45 cows produce less now that they are on an organic diet, pint-for-pint, he gets triple the price for his milk now.

In Belgium's Delhaize supermarket chain, six organic eggs sell for the equivalent of \$1.56, double the price of non-organic. Three organic leeks are \$2.09, compared to \$1.25 for a bundle of five grown conventionally.



Associated Press

ORGANIC

From Page 3B

Jean-Pierre Bastin is one of the more than 100,000 organic farmers in the European Union. Organic farming is a \$7.3 billion EU industry.

Delhaize is among a burgeoning number of European supermarkets that are taking organic retailing out of the hands of the small farm stores that have long pioneered bio-products.

"Organic products are becoming the number one choice for more and more customers, and we have had to expand our range of lines to over 500," says Andrew Sellick, organic

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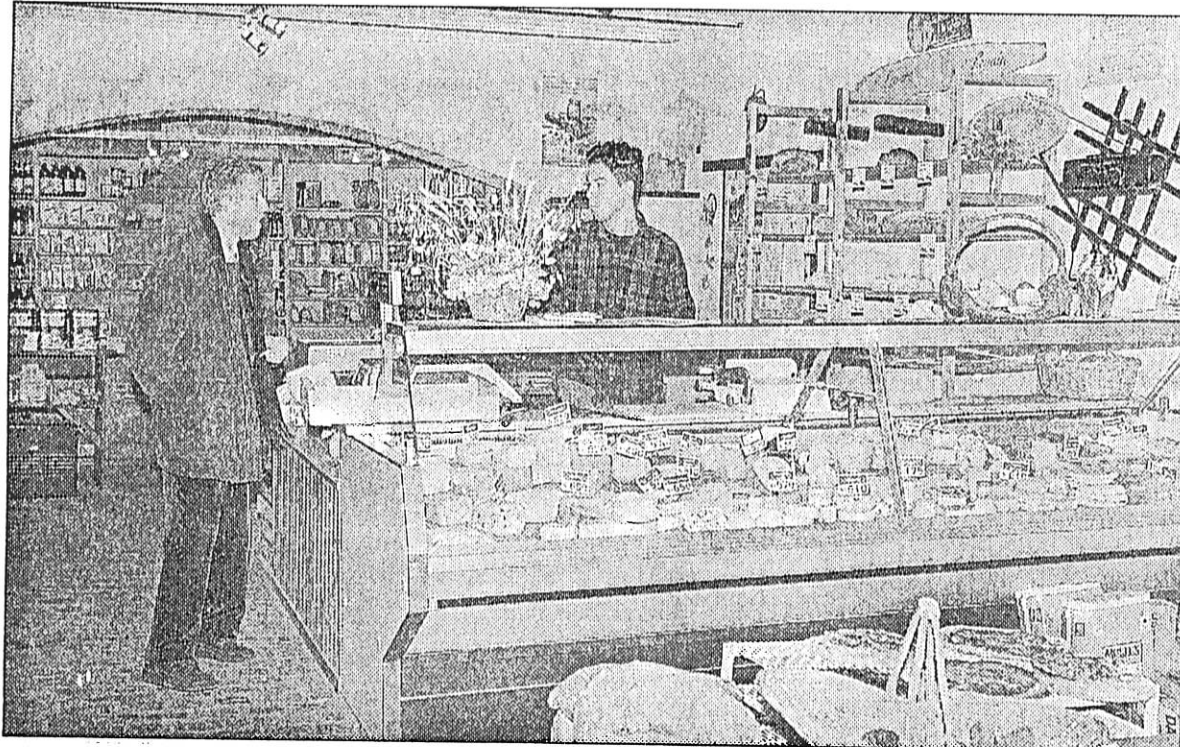
FARM

The Wichita Eagle

please see ORGANIC page 5B

ORGANIC

From Page 3B



Associated Press

Henri Paque, left, talks with his son Michel in his organic food store in Liege, Belgium. Along with smaller stores such as Paque's, a growing number of European supermarkets are getting into organic retailing.

buyer at Britain's Tesco PLC.

Tesco says organic sales will top \$162 million this year, compared to just \$8 million three years ago.

As big business muscles into the organic sector, some people fear the original farmers' dedication to organic production will be undermined as

the sector expands to take on those motivated more by profits than ecological ideals.

Europe's organic watchdogs disagree.

"It's very tightly controlled," says Jerome Geels at the Belgium branch of Ecocert, one of the bodies autho-

rized by governments to certify organic producers.

Although Ecocert's inspectors are increasingly overworked by the bio-food boom, Geels says farmers can still expect up to 10 unannounced inspections a year to ensure standards are respected.

"Organic products are becoming the number one choice for more and more customers, and we have had to expand our range of lines to over 500."

— Andrew Sellick,
organic buyer at Britain's
Tesco PLC

Organic farming pioneers view the expansion with mixed feelings. Concern about competition from big business is mingled with satisfaction over what activists see as benefits for the environment, health and rural employment.

"I always said that when organic products took off in the big supermarkets we would have won," says Henri Paque, who went organic on his 111-acre farm 20 years ago.

Paque, 53, watches his son serve a line of customers from the nearby city of Liege, choosing from an organic range in his farm store that includes his home-produced cabbage, pumpkins and turnips as well as an array of organic cheeses, bio-beer and even vegetarian dog food.

"I may not have gotten rich out of this, but I'm rich in my heart," Paque says. "You know, there are farmers who have to wear a mask when they go to their fields, when they should be breathing the good, clean air."

Report to the Kansas State House and Senate Agricultural Committees on Opportunities for the Production of Alternative Crops in Kansas.

Information provided at the request of:
Gwen Welshimer
Representative, 88 District

Date: February 8, 2000

This report summarizes the opportunities for production of alternative phytomedicinal crops for the state of Kansas. Two related organizations, the Great Plains Comprehensive Agriculture and Medical Initiative (CAMI) and the developing Kansas Organic Medicinal Herb Growers Association, are evaluating the potential for cultivation of medicinal plants in Kansas.

The phytomedicinal and nutraceutical industry has emerged from traditional medicine and alternative medicine that originated in Europe and Asia over the last 30 to 50 years. The use of phytomedicinals has been accepted in Europe by the conventional medical profession and has been integrated into its health-care delivery system. In 1989 the market was estimated to be \$2.2 billion in sales. The European market has grown considerably and is currently estimated to be more than \$200 billion in 1998. The US market in comparison has grown from \$100 million to \$3.5 billion over the same period. A very strong growth potential is predicted for the United States and Canada with an annual growth rate exceeding 25%.

Figure 1 summarized the segmentation of the U.S. botanical supplements market. The top selling botanicals of the largest and most rapidly growing segment of this industry is shown in Figure 2. Growing interest on the part of local farmers and members of the academic community have resulted in the formation of CAMI and an "herb growers interest group", which hope to identify the most promising medicinal plant species for cultivation in Kansas.

In 1998, this group convened a meeting of approximately 150 farmer and interested community members with a focus on the cultivation of Echinacea (Prairie Purple Coneflower). This group has evolved into the tentatively named, Kansas Organic Medicinal Herb Growers Association, which plans to incorporate in 2000. The group consists of 13 steering committee members and 8 farmers currently cultivating *Echinacea angustifolia*. A grower survey was conducted in August 1999, indicating over 76 acres of Echinacea are under organic cultivation with plans to plant an additional 40 acres in 2000. Non-organic cultivation of Echinacea under center-pivot cultivation has been estimated over 160 acres. *Echinacea angustifolia* and *E. pallida*, both native to Kansas and the Great Plains. It has been estimated that the demand in the world market for Echinacea alone (10% of U.S. sales in 1998) is 10 million pounds of raw product. Organic growers in Washington and Oregon are selling *Echinacea purpurea* for \$13.00 per pound to manufacturers and grossing \$9,333 per acre from *Echinacea* crops, and a range of from \$5,000-\$9,000 per acre for medicinal herbs in general. If 5 to 10% of the U.S. crop originated from Kansas, it would represent a potential of 1/2 to 1 million pounds and \$ 6 - \$10 million for the Kansas farmer at today's market price. The majority of *Echinacea angustifolia* used in Europe is imported from the US Midwestern States. If one includes the potential export of Kansas cultivated *Echinacea* to the European market, the demand could be a factor of ten-fold greater.

The Kansas Organic Medicinal Herb Growers Association survey also identified other medicinal herbs of interest. Table 1 lists ten medicinal plant species that are major selling botanicals in U.S. and foreign markets. All the botanicals listed can be grown in the state with adaptation to specific growing conditions.

CAMI and the Kansas Organic Medicinal Herb Growers Association has recognized the added value in the certification of Coop marketed botanicals by the standardization of ingredients, accurate species identification, and quantification of levels of biological activity.

They also recognized that for the U.S. market to realize its full potential, phytomedicinal supplements will be required to demonstrate the same quality, potency (consistency) and efficacy as today's over-the-counter (OTC) pharmaceuticals. This has been the case in Europe with the successful integration of these products into the health care delivery systems of Germany, France and Italy. Regulation of the Common Market industry is directed by the European Commission E; the use and efficacy of botanicals is documented by more than 300 Commission E monographs. In the U.S. regulators such as the FDA are proposing more stringent Good Manufacturing Process (GMP) regulations (21 CFR 201.128, Food & Drug Cosmetic Act). Leading companies already manufacture some dietary supplement products pursuant to the more detailed OTC pharmaceutical "Current Good Manufacturing Practices for Finished Pharmaceuticals" (cGMP). Future regulations may require expanded documentation of the properties of certain products, or scientific substantiation regarding ingredients, product claims or safety. Commercial participants, though cautious regarding increased cost in regulation, see opportunities to profit from the ability to provide greater evidence of both quality and effectiveness.

In collaboration with the Organic Medicinal Herb Growers Association two Kansas Companies, **Botanica Analytica Research Laboratories, L.L.C. and Phylogenetix Laboratories Inc.**, propose to provide services that will certify the quality of Kansas grown phytomedicinal crops. Phylogenetix Laboratories is developing genetic-based (genomic) assays to accurately and rapidly distinguish phytomedicinal botanical species from each other and from adulterants. This patented technology will provide state-of-the-art, comprehensive labeling that will be cGMP compliant. Botanica Analytica Research Laboratories plans to market the genomic assays and materials through services for a Kansas herb grower's coop and directly to botanical supplement manufacturers and distributors. Both companies will promote phytomedicinal assays as a lever for facilitating commerce in nutraceutical materials. Even if not required by the FDA, such certification increases consumer confidence and provides a competitive market advantage for producers of the certified product.

Certification may become contractually mandated by international importers of phytomedicinals or by commodity futures markets. Other marketing channels will include partnering with Avarisc systems, a technology enabler, to develop e-commerce offerings including electronic Certificates of Analysis, and a recently founded electronic commodity exchange—NutraceuticalX.com. A consortium of comprising producers and guarantors of quality control will market certified products through this exchange.

Botanica Analytica Research Laboratories, L.L.C. and Phylogenetix Laboratories Inc., are currently seeking KTEC and Precede funding to support research and development efforts. A window of opportunity exists at the present. Timely funding as well as concerted effort towards commercialization of the technology are critical to success in this market.

Stephen E. Moring, President, Botanica Analytica Research Laboratories, L.L.C, Oskaloosa, KS and steering committee member, Kansas Organic Medicinal Plant Growers Association

Peter K. Rogan, President, Phylogenetix Laboratories, Inc., Overland Park, KS

Figure 1.

U.S. Market for Medicinal Botanicals, July 1998

Segment	Sales in million \$
Natural Foods	\$1,207
Multilevel	1050
Mass Market (food, drug, mass merchandise retail)	663
Mail Order	320
Practitioners	270
Tea	266
Specialty Shops	90
Total	\$3.87 Billion

Source: P. Brevoort, *Herbalgram* 44, 1998

Figure 2.

1998 U.S. Top Selling Botanical Supplements

Mass Market 52 weeks - July, 98

Supplement	Sales in \$millions	% growth
Gingko	\$138	140+
St. John' wort	121	2801+
Ginseng	98	26+
Garlic	84	27+
Echinacea	33	151+
Saw palmetto	27	138+
Grapeseed	11	38+
Kava	8	473+
Evening Primrose	8	104+
Echinacea/Goldenseal	8	80+
Cranberry	8	75+
Valerian	8	35+
All Others	31	
Total:	\$663.40	

Source: P. Brevoort, *Herbalgram* 44, 1998

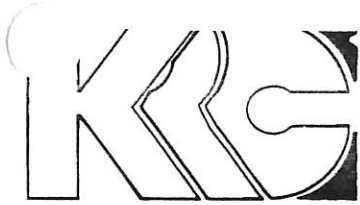
Table 1

Medicinal Plants of Agricultural Importance for Kansas

<u>Botanical</u>	<u>Use in Commerce</u>	<u>Habitat</u>	<u>US Demand</u> (tons)	<u>Wholesale</u> Value(\$/Lb)	<u>Typical Yield</u> Lbs/acre	<u>Years to</u> harvest
Echinacea	3 species, 2 native	All Kansas	140	7.25-22.00	800 - 2200†	3 - 5
St. John's Wort	one main species	All Kansas	455	13.00	NA	2
Black Cohosh	several species	E. Kansas		8.50 -14.00	1000?	3 - 4
Goldenseal	1 species	E. Woodland	32	60 - 115	1000	4
American Ginseng	1 species	E. Woodland	215 750*	90.00 - 120.00	2000*	4 - 10
Ginkgo	1 living fossil	E. Kansas	2150	8.00 - 17.00	NA	perennial
Milk Thistle	1 species	W. Kansas		11.00	NA	biannual
Valerian	3-4 species	E. Kansas	105	9.00 - 14.00	1800 - 2300†	2
Evening Primrose seed	several species	All Kansas	--	--	--	annual
Borage seed	1 species	All Kansas	--	--	--	annual

* 1998 est. ginseng production in Wisconsin ~90% exported, Clark, Agr. & Agr-Food Canada, www.agr.ca/pfra/sidcpub/sidpub4.htm

† Falk, et al HorTechnology 9(4) (1999) p 681



KANSAS RURAL CENTER

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House Agriculture Committee

Testimony on HB 2616

February 9, 2000

Submitted by Mary Fund, Communications Director, Kansas Rural Center

Thank you for the opportunity to be here today. I am Mary Fund, Communications Director for the Kansas Rural Center. I am here today to speak in favor of HB 2616, which would establish a center of excellence on sustainable agriculture and alternative crops at Kansas State University. Although we recognize that HB 2616 is lacking in detail as to how this center would fit into the existing framework of research and education, we do support the concept. A center would help focus attention on an important and growing segment of agriculture and consumer interest.

The Kansas Rural Center is a non-profit organization that has promoted sustainable agriculture in Kansas over the past twenty years. Sustainable agriculture refers to a system of agriculture that is economically viable, environmentally sound, and socially sustainable. It is important to note that sustainable agriculture is a goal, and not a fixed technology. This is important because sustainable agriculture does not have a particular product to sell, thus we rely heavily on the experiential knowledge of farmers, and on the knowledge and research assistance from the land grant university.

Sustainable agriculture involves a broad range of approaches, most of which work to decrease reliance on purchased inputs and increase reliance on on-farm or renewable resources. The ability to lower production costs is an important key to keeping more of the food dollar in the hands of the farm family and within the community. In recent years developing alternative marketing approaches has become as important to the farmer as lowering production costs.

In our various projects and programs we have worked to provide family farmers with the information that will help them lower production costs, protect soil and water resources, and improve their bottom line. Over time we developed an extensive network of farmers called the Heartland Sustainable Agriculture Network working together and with experts from a variety of sources including Kansas State University research and extension personnel. Currently we are working with 16 clusters of farm families around the state; seven of these are focusing on alternative marketing approaches and new enterprise development on their farms; six are studying how to improve their livestock operations through better grazing and forage management; and two are focusing on cover crop research to conserve soil and water and lower their production costs. My point is that there is a ripe and ready constituency needing information on sustainable farming practices, enterprise development, and marketing alternatives.

There are also research needs that a center could help address. Over the years, we have developed good working relationships with a number of research and extension personnel at KSU. For example we are involved in seven learning teams of KSU and Network farmers cooperating on research questions.

House Agriculture Committee

February 9, 2000

Attachment 6

These are small steps. There are more research and education needs, such as cover crop research by regions, extended crop rotations, forages and grazing management by region, co-op and business plan development, marketing development, and economics of sustainable systems.

We believe that establishing a center of excellence on sustainable agriculture and alternative crops would (1) enable the university to better coordinate their existing efforts; 2) focus the university on developing new research efforts for sustainable agriculture and alternative crops; and 3) provide the university a platform for seeking funding from other outside sources interested in these issues.

We are concerned that this proposal involves no new dollars. Even though we recognize the state's current budget restraints, ideally the state should appropriate additional dollars to help KSU set this center up. We would also like to see an advisory board made up of KSU, sustainable agriculture representatives and others to develop and guide this concept into implementation.

Thank you.

Kansas Ecumenical Ministries

Testimony on House Bill No. 2616

Before the House Committee on Agriculture

Date: February 9, 2000

Introduction

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to speak to the Committee today. I am Rev. Dr. Joe Hendrixson, Executive Director of Kansas Ecumenical Ministries. Known informally as the state council of churches, Kansas Ecumenical Ministries' membership includes nine church bodies with congregations in our state. Together, these churches include over 1,700 congregations and 400,000 church members in Kansas. I appreciate the opportunity to share with you and the members of the Committee the perspective of the churches on this important issue.

Throughout 1999, the member church communions of Kansas Ecumenical Ministries worked together to study the current situation in Kansas agriculture and the vitality of our rural communities. Together, we envisioned an abundant life that can be viable into the distant future for those who work the land and for the communities in which they live. You have just received a summary of our policy recommendations based on that study.

The Faith Community's Interest in Agriculture

When I meet with the Bishops and Executive Ministers of the churches of Kansas, their remarks always turn early on to the situation in agriculture and rural communities. Last fall, when we sat together to plan our legislative agenda for this session, family farmers were number one on their list of priorities.

Why? Part of the reason is practical. Family farmers accessed direct assistance funds reserved for them (including those of local congregations, Kansas regional church bodies, and clusters of church communions like Kansas Ecumenical Ministries) in greatly increased numbers in 1999. Congregations of our member communions located in rural communities, as reported by the Bishops and Executive Ministers, experience more stress-related problems than urban or suburban congregations. Declining financial resources, loss of and increasing age of the local population, low morale and self esteem as lifetimes of independent food production are lost to controlled contract production – these are just a few of the factors that are played out in the average rural congregation. In addition to the congregations, local rural pastors often are also victims of strained congregations. The church leaders of Kansas worry about the congregations, members, and pastors under their care.

However, there is a deeper reason why the Bishops and Executive Ministers of our nine church communions are concerned about the future of Kansas agriculture and rural communities. The *manner* of farming has *moral* repercussions. The *method* of food production has *meaning*.

Farming and Faith

The concern of the Church for the land and for the farmers and ranchers who live and work on the land is at the heart of our faith. **We believe that God created the land we farm.** While God calls all of us to care for the gift of land, **food producers are in a unique position to exercise the stewardship of creation** conferred on humans since the beginning of time.

We believe that farming the land should provide a sufficient, sustainable livelihood. The struggle for the survival of owner-operated farms and ranches reaches to the core of community life for many Kansans. We are concerned about the state of production agriculture in Kansas. We are even more concerned about the future of a cherished way of life.

We believe that land use must consider the impact on creation and community. That is why we continue in our belief that farms and ranches operated full-time by those who live on them constitute the most sustainable, efficient and morally responsible method for connecting with the land and for providing food to the world. We support part-time farmers who also have non-farm jobs in their efforts to earn a living wage and still stay connected to the land. We commend niche market operations that inspire creative, sustainable practices.

Policy Implications

Along with others, the churches have tried to do their share in relieving the burdens of family farmers and rural communities. Kansas churches accomplished nationally recognized work in the 1980s. In the early 1990s, Kansas Ecumenical Ministries received a Lilly Endowment grant for a project on Community Vitalization in rural areas. Throughout those years, we have recognized that economic development was critical to success. Small, niche-market businesses were encouraged and thrived in communities across the state. Nevertheless, the farmer as a small, niche-market businessperson was rarely, if ever, considered for investment by public economic development dollars. We know from our own work that such development can enhance the lives of both the farm family and the community in which they live. Farming should be getting a rightful share of economic development dollars, beginning with the research and marketing assistance this bill provides.

The churches of Kansas want the farmers in their communities to have the opportunity to be what they are uniquely suited to be: land stewards. A growing number of Kansas farmers know that consumer demand is rising for locally grown produce, organic produce, meats raised without factory methods, and other niche markets. A significant number of farmers and ranchers are interested in food production that is particularly suited to small-scale farms, low-input methods, and part-time labor.

However, there is little research available to farmers on these issues and the ways in which such products and methods play out in the characteristic Kansas geography and weather, or in the local, regional, and global food systems. We believe that the establishment of a center of excellence on sustainable agriculture and alternative crops is a significant and primary step in making appropriate land stewardship more widely

practiced in our state, and an important contribution to the well-being of family farmers and rural communities.

Conclusion

The churches of Kansas stand in support of this bill. We believe that the establishment of a center of excellence on sustainable agriculture and alternative crops reflects the values we teach. We believe it is a good investment in the future of our state and our local communities – a sound investment morally and economically. It is the right thing to do.

Dr. Joe M. Hendrixson, Executive Director
Kansas Ecumenical Ministries
5833 SW 29th Street
Topeka, KS 66614-2499
(785) 272-9531

About Kansas Ecumenical Ministries

Kansas Ecumenical Ministries is commonly known as the state council of churches. It traces its roots through several Kansas ecumenical organizations dating back to 1865. It includes the Kansas congregations of the American Baptist Churches, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Church of the Brethren, the Episcopal Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the General Conference Mennonite Church, the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., the United Church of Christ, and the United Methodist Church.

Representatives of these communions, including the Executive Minister or Bishop, serve on the Governing Board of Kansas Ecumenical Ministries and guide its work. The church communions covenant to work together on Christian unity and spirituality, justice, and advocacy.

Kansas Interfaith Impact is the advocacy organization of Kansas Ecumenical Ministries and its member Church communions. Public policy positions taken by Kansas Ecumenical Ministries/Kansas Interfaith Impact are approved by the Governing Board and grounded in study of the Scriptures, theology, and the historic writings of the Church. It bases its involvement in specific issues on social statements of the member communions and the mutual concern of Kansas church leaders.

The Rural Concerns Committee of Kansas Ecumenical Ministries leads the member communions in study of rural and agricultural issues, assists with celebrations of rural life, and provides direct assistance to farmers experiencing financial stress.

marketing programs in line with the federal policy of supporting the independent family farm.

- 2) Establish open price reporting laws to ensure that all farms, regardless of size, are treated fairly in their dealings with the concentrated food processors.
- 3) Enforce existing antitrust laws such as the Packers and Stockyards Act. Provide adequate staffing and resources for the USDA and the Antitrust Division of the United States Justice Department to investigate and prosecute antitrust violations.
- 4) Reopen the 1996 Federal Farm Law – the Freedom to Farm Act – in order to cap the level of support payments to mega-farms and construct a safety net for the family farm.

LEVEL THREE – CREATING SUSTAINABLE FARMING OPPORTUNITIES

- 1) Create a Kansas Farming Opportunities Center. The specifics of the Kansas food system would be documented showing the demand and production of each food item. Real-world business plans would show the effort necessary to produce and market a given item. New opportunities would be explored. The marketing system in Kansas would be documented and contact names collected.
- 2) Establish agriculture research priorities. Low-input farming methods such as crop rotation, cover cropping by region, rotational grazing practices and

creative cropping/ livestock systems research should be increased. Greater effort must be given to investigate new alternative crops.

- 3) Revamp credit programs to assist beginning farmers, small-scale farmers, and part-time farmers with smaller loans and greater reliance on management and low-input practices. Priority given to smaller farmer-owned cooperatives and developing medium scale processing plants.
- 4) Expand market programs to promote regional food systems for local crop, produce and livestock production. This promotion would target direct farmer-to-customer sales, expanding farmer markets and encouraging supermarkets to develop local sources of food production.

KEY VALUES

- **Economic viability**
- **Social justice**
- **Democracy, Decentralization, and Diversity in Land Ownership and Food Production**
- **Stewardship of the land**
- **Promoting the common good**

The complete text of the 1999 study is available from:

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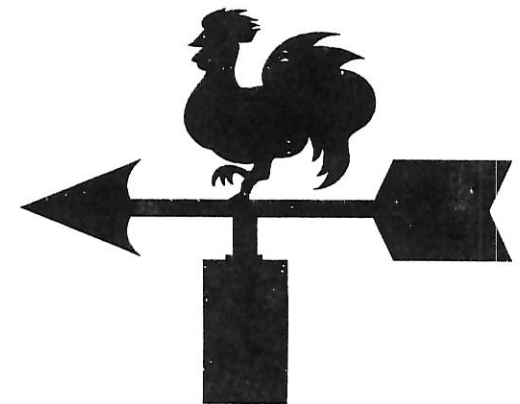
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NEW DIRECTIONS FOR KANSAS AGRICULTURE AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

7.4

A Christian Perspective for a Better Future



Throughout 1999, the member church communions of Kansas Ecumenical Ministries worked together to study the current situation in Kansas agriculture and the vitality of our rural communities. Together, we envisioned an abundant life that can be viable into the distant future for those who work the land and for the communities in which they live. The two – farmers/ranchers and communities – go hand-in-hand.

A FRUITFUL AND BLESSED LAND

The land of Kansas is uniquely blessed. While many places struggle with poor soil, an adverse climate, and inadequate or polluted water, Kansas still produces great quantities of wheat, corn, soybeans and other crops. Cattle and hogs dot the landscape. Kansas products find their way to tables on every continent. We give thanks to God for the fullness of creation in this place.

The concern of the Church for the land and for the farmers and ranchers who live and work on the land is at the heart of our faith. While God calls all of us to care for the gift of land, food producers are in a unique position to exercise the stewardship of creation conferred on humans since the beginning of time.

We are concerned about the state of production agriculture in Kansas. We are even more concerned about the future of a cherished way of life. The struggle for the survival of owner-operated farms and ranches reaches to the core of community life for many Kansans.

We continue in our belief that farms and ranches operated full-time by those who live on them constitute the most sustainable, efficient and morally responsible method for connecting with the land and for providing food to the world. We support part-time farmers who also have non-farm jobs in their efforts to

earn a living wage and still stay connected to the land. We commend niche market operations that inspire creative, sustainable practices.

However, we recognize that the plight of many farmers and ranchers today makes their future uncertain. We do not have quick and easy solutions.

We do, though, urge cooperation and collaboration among urban, suburban and rural residents to get the state's farmers and ranchers through the current economic crisis. Such cooperation is at its best when the focus is on needs, not wants; when the priority is the common good, not narrow self-interests; when interdependence is sought, not when absolute independence is demanded; when there is a willingness to compromise, not an insistence on driving a hard bargain.

We believe that

- *The land was created by God, and is God's*
- *Humans participate in creation as God's stewards*
- *Farming the land should provide a sufficient, sustainable livelihood*
- *Land use must consider the impact on creation and community*

Changes of existing farm policy and creation of new farm policy must happen on three levels simultaneously.

LEVEL ONE – IMMEDIATE FARM CRISIS RESPONSE

- 1) Re-establish a fully staffed farm crisis hotline, which has adequate resources to mediate, counsel and connect farmers to networks statewide. This hotline should be the central clearing-house working with the mental health centers, religious community, bankers, public safety agencies, social services and extension offices.
- 2) Develop a subsidized interest loan program that would make operating loans to family farms. These loans would come through local banks, accompanied by farm business plans to help restructure the farm operation.
- 3) Expand the federal funding for USDA's Farm Ownership Direct Loans and Farm Operating Direct Loans, targeting these loans to family farms.
- 4) Educate Kansas residents about the problems faced by the family farmer. Work with Kansas residents to support family farms through consumer choices and by advocating for family farm public policy.

LEVEL TWO – REFORMING EXISTING FARM POLICY

- 1) Adopt the recommendations of the USDA's National Commission on Small Farms report, *A Time to Act*. These 144 recommendations would reorder federal farm policy to lessen the bias towards industrial agriculture and move research, credit and

HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 9, 2000
HOUSE BILL 2616
TESTIMONY - PAUL JOHNSON

HB 2616

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support to SB 534 - Establishing a Center of Excellence on Sustainable Agriculture and Alternative Crops at Kansas State University. I come before you as a full-time market gardener, a board member of the Kansas Rural Center and a spokesperson for the Kansas Catholic Conference and the Kansas Catholic Bishops.

Sustainable agriculture is economically profitable, environmentally sound, family-farm based and socially just. This mode of agriculture works for the farmer, it works for the environment and it works for the rural community all at the same time. Sustainable agriculture institutes or centers exist at Iowa State Univ., University of Nebraska, the University of Wisconsin, the University of Minnesota and at several other land grant universities. For your information organic agriculture is only one part of sustainable agriculture.

The Institute for Public Policy and Business Research at KU has just finished a year long survey of local consumers and their preferences for local food. Over 900 consumers were interviewed at length. A super majority of the 900 have a preference for local produce and would pay a small premium for the choice. The organic trade has been growing at a 20% rate for the last few years.

Numbers from the 1997 USDA Census of Agriculture for Kansas show Kansas has 61,593 farms. 5,000 of these farms gross over \$250,000 a year and they sell 75% of the farm sales, 40,000 of these farm gross less than \$50,000 and they sell less than 6% of the farm sales. Small farms should be seen as small businesses and promoted by Kansas. An agriculture component should be introduced into the existing small business development infrastructure. In Nebraska the Small Business Administration is a key player in funding micro-enterprise value-added agriculture businesses.

So what do we want from this Center of Excellence? Initially we want a person named as a coordinator. This coordinator would collect information and resources on alternative agriculture. The Kansas food system would be researched and data collected on what can be grown here compared to the existing demand in Kansas. Research efforts for sustainable agriculture would be catalogued and shortages of specific research trials would be documented. Credit, loan and grant program information from national, state and local sources for sustainable agriculture would be collected and made accessible to interested parties. This coordinator would be the point person for questions from the field and would have resources identified at KSU ready to provide timely information. It is especially important to have agriculture economists review business plans for niche operations. This Center should have an advisory board of producers, consumers and policymakers who can help set priorities, inform the public and promote the Center.

Kansas needs to develop a coordinated response to this emerging market. In this information age of discerning consumers and internet choice, there will be more opportunities to promote niche and alternative agriculture production. A public/private partnership is necessary to help promote sustainable agriculture and this new Center should get its fair share of the economic development funds. This Center would synthesize what is already being done for sustainable agriculture at KSU, identify what work needs to be done and move Kansas down the path of responding to this new agriculture market.

Thanks again for this opportunity to present these information bullets. There are several resources available for sustainable agriculture that I would gladly share with the Committee when and if time permits. This Center offers great promise for Kansas.

House Agriculture Committee
February 9, 2000
Attachment 8

Senate Agriculture Committee

Testimony in favor of HB 2616

February 9, 2000

submitted by Charles Benjamin, Ph.D., J.D.

On behalf of

The Kansas Natural Resource Council

Kansas Sierra Club

I am here today to speak in favor of HB 2616 which would establish a center of excellence on sustainable agriculture and alternative crops at Kansas State University. Although HB 2616 is lacking in detail as to how this center would fit into the existing framework of research and education the concept is still worth your support. A center would help focus attention on an important and growing segment of agriculture and consumer interest.

The Kansas Natural Resource Council and Kansas Sierra Club are strongly in favor of an agricultural system in Kansas and elsewhere that is "sustainable." By that we mean a system of agriculture that is viable economically, environmentally and socially. Sustainable agriculture relies heavily on the experiential knowledge of farmers and on knowledge and research assistance from land grant universities. Sustainable agriculture involves a broad range of approaches, most of which work to decrease reliance on purchased inputs and increase reliance on on-farm or renewable resources. The ability to lower production costs is an important key to keeping more of the food dollar in the hands of the farm family and within the community. In recent years developing alternative marketing approaches has become as important to the farmer as lowering production costs. There is now in place a constituency needing information on sustainable farming practices, enterprise development, and marketing alternatives.

Establishing a center of excellence on sustainable agriculture and alternative crops would serve several useful public policy purposes. First, it would enable the university to better coordinate their existing efforts. Second, it would focus the university on developing new research efforts for sustainable agriculture and alternative crops. Finally, it would provide the university a platform for seeking funding from outside sources interested in these issues.

Even though there are budget constraints for the state at this time, the state should appropriate additional dollars to help KSU set up this center. We also support an advisory board made up of KSU, sustainable agriculture representatives and others to develop and guide this concept into implementation.

House Agriculture Committee

February 9, 2000

Attachment 9



PUBLIC POLICY STATEMENT

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

RE: HB 2616 – Establishing a Center of Excellence on sustainable agriculture and alternative crops at Kansas State University.

**February 9, 2000
Topeka, Kansas**

**Prepared by:
Bill R. Fuller, Associate Director
Public Affairs Division
Kansas Farm Bureau**

Chairman Johnson and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, my name is Bill Fuller. I serve as the Associate Director of the Public Policy Division for Kansas Farm Bureau.

HB 2616 proposes to establish a Center of Excellence on sustainable agriculture and alternative crops at K-State. We are here to express support and to suggest improvements for the bill.

The farm and ranch members of Farm Bureau have developed and adopted a number of policy statements that relate to the proposal under consideration today by this Committee:

- *We support increased efforts to develop, promote and utilize traditional and alternative products derived from the crop and livestock production from the state's farms and ranches.*
- *Using agricultural products to produce non-food products provides additional marketing opportunities and the potential for increased prices.*
- *We support additional research and development to find non-traditional farm products that have the potential to become viable enterprises for agricultural producers.*

A review of the bill prompts two recommendations that would make the proposal more acceptable to Farm Bureau. First, section 1 on lines 17 thru 20 state: *"The funding for the center of excellence shall be redirected funds within the existing budget for the extension systems and agriculture research program at Kansas state university."* We strongly oppose this funding provision.

We cannot weaken, or perhaps even destroy, important functions now provided by K-State that are vital to the family farmers and rural communities of the state. We support adequate funding for the research and extension programs that provide technical specialists and county agents that deliver research information and provide instruction to Kansas citizens. Farm Bureau policy calls for increased, not decreased, science-based research that will protect water quality, increase the marketability of farm products, solve environmental concerns and increase net farm income by decreasing input costs and improve product quality.

Earlier today Farm Bureau testified in support of SB 534, which also calls for the creation of a Center of Excellence. That particular proposal details some of the functions and duties the center should carryout. As we did this morning, we encourage this committee to review current activities and programs at K-State. It is quite possible that several of those programs are already focusing on alternative crops and sustainable agriculture. If you find that such programs do exist, perhaps a plan that repackages these activities to increase their visibility would achieve the same goal as establishing the Center for Excellence without creating another expensive level of administration.

Farm Bureau policy encourages a strong commitment by the Kansas Legislature, Board of Regents and the K-State administration for the land grant tradition of teaching, research and extension. While we support programs at K-State that promote sustainable agriculture and alternative crops, we must avoid any duplication and continue the current programs Kansas farmers and ranchers have depended upon for the past 50 years that impact their profitability, quality of life and rural communities.

Thank you!