

MINUTES OF THE JOINT HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND
SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Taddiken at 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 1, 2007 in the Old Supreme Court Room (313-S) of the Capitol.

All members of the Senate Agriculture Committee were present except:
Senator Lee - excused

Committee staff present:
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research
Becky Krahl, Kansas Legislative Research
Art Griggs, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Judy Seitz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committees:

Others attending:
See attached list.

Chairman Taddiken introduced Congressman Jerry Moran.

Congressman Moran said he was in the state for sixty-nine (69) town hall meetings.

He mentioned that President Bush had introduced the federal farm bill yesterday. Congressman Moran stated that the farm bill is significant to Kansas because the state's economy is significantly affected by agriculture. He also said the average age for a farmer in Kansas is 59 years old. He had a 45 minute briefing with Secretary Johannes regarding the proposed federal farm bill. The federal budget will be adopted in March or April. At that time it will be known if the necessary dollars are in the budget for the programs in the farm bill. The farm bill includes energy conservation, renewable fuels, CREP, cellulosic for biofuels and nutrition. Water usage for irrigation and ethanol production is included in the bill.

Another issue in the farm bill is the Arkansas River area in CREP which takes land out of production and uses for grassland.

Congressman Moran then took questions from the Committee.

Senator Taddiken noted that there was no mention of commodities in a presentation he heard. It was necessary to ask specifically about commodities.

Congressman Moran said that the U.S.A. meets 60% of the energy needs from unstable countries. There were questions from Committee members regarding CREP, rural economic development, crop insurance, increasing the demand for farm products and not being able to sell state inspected meat across state lines. The U.S.D.A. passes regulations which puts the small meat processors out of business and then complains about large locker plants.

Senator Pine thanked Congressman Moran for supporting the Practicality in Education Act. Congressman Moran expressed some concerns regarding the teacher shortage in Kansas. He also spoke regarding the No Child Left Behind Act.

A final question was asked regarding a ban on the slaughter of horses.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 a.m.

Joint House Agriculture & Natural Resources
and SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: February 1, 2007

NAME	REPRESENTING
STEVEN HOWE	CONGRESSMAN JERRY MORAN
RONALD RICHEY	ME
Don Parson	Ks WATER Aut.
Alex Kotogantz	Armenia
Kerri Spelman	KATA
Lindsey Douglas	Ken law Firm
Duane Simpson	KGFA - KARA
Matt Johnson	Seaboard Foods
Mary Jane Stankiewicz	KGFA
John Donley	KS Livestock Assn
Dana Peterson	KS Assoc of Wheat Growers
Mike Beam	Ks. Livestock Assn.
Eber Phelps	House
Dan Johnson	House
Jessie Kaufman	Ks Co-op Council
Kenton Johannes	KS Soybean Association