

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Taddiken at 8:30 a.m. on January 15, 2008 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Tim Huelskamp  
Janis Lee

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Jason Thompson, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Matt Todd, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Judy Seitz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Adrian Polansky, Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA)  
Dave Barfield, Chief Engineer, Division of Water Resources, Kansas Department of Agriculture

Others attending:

See attached list.

Adrian Polansky, Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, introduced members of his staff:

Constantine Cotsoradis, Deputy Secretary  
Erik Wisner, Legislative Communications  
Dale Lambley, Special Assistant  
David Starkey, Legal Counsel  
Carol Jordan, Director Rural and Legislative Affairs  
Dave Barfield, Chief Engineer  
Ida Kirmse, Homeland Security  
Stacey Woolington, Fiscal Officer  
Lisa Taylor, Public Information Officer

Secretary Polansky presented an overview of the KDA (Attachment 1). A copy of the 2007 Annual Report of the KDA was distributed to Committee members (on file at the KDA). He said it has been a good year for Kansas agriculture even though there were some disasters. Secretary Polansky stated that the KDA is the coordinating agency to address animal and plant diseases, food safety, agricultural production and public water supplies in a disaster.

He reported that the sensible use of natural resources and innovation will help build a bioeconomy resulting in jobs for Kansans. Kansas is a founding member of the North Central Bioeconomy Consortium (NCBC) which brings together experts from experiment stations, extension and departments of agriculture from states across the Midwest. The 12 Midwest states have 50 percent of the nation's biomass supply.

The NC 506 Project is working to address diverse issues of sustainability in corn ethanol production systems.

The Midwest Governor's Association (MGA) calls for a regional strategy to achieve energy security and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

There are eleven ethanol plants operating today in Kansas and other plants are under consideration. Approximately 640 permanent jobs were created in these plants. Kansas is currently conducting a survey of the economic benefits of the ethanol industry. The U.S. is currently importing almost \$1 billion worth of crude oil a day. The trade deficit could be reduced while keeping dollars at home by producing ethanol.

Secretary Polansky stated that flexible fuel vehicle (FFV) owners will soon be able to choose a 20 or 30 percent ethanol for their vehicles under a KDA pilot project.