

Approved: January 28, 2009

Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Powell at 3:30 p.m. on January 13, 2009, in Room 783 Docking State Office Building.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research
Mike Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes Office
Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes Office
Pat Matzek, Administrative Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Fred Cholick, Dean and Director, College of Agriculture, Kansas State University

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Powell opened the meeting with introduction of Committee members and staff.

Committee Rules and Information for Conferees for 2009 were distributed to all members and staff for their review. There were no questions on these handouts.

Fred Cholick, Dean and Director, College of Agriculture, Kansas State University, and also Director of K-State Research and Extension, highlighted two components; the first one was a letter handout (Attachment 1) which highlighted the accomplishments of the Kansas Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Alternative Crops Annual Report, referred to as KCSAAC.

The second program is the Grazing Systems Program. In summarizing KCSAAC, it is about how to work with a group who wants to do something differently and provide them with educational material and knowledge to perform that function.

The second handout is called the Informal Report (on file at www.oznet.ksu.edu). This report represents the activities of K-State Research and Extension and is called the extension system of agriculture research program.

Below were the highlighted projects discussed and listed in the Informal Report:

- **Communities Network to Keep Groceries Local**
- **Healthy Choices Can Change Lives**
- **Workshops Help Retain Family Farm Ownership**
- **Sorghum Breeder Brings International Experience**

At the conclusion of the presentation, questions were asked and comments were made by members of the Committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

AG. & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: 1-13-09

NAME	REPRESENTING
Fred A. Cholick	K-State University / KSRE
Steven Graham	K-state Research & Extension
J. Desch	ANCA of KS
Sarah Hatch	U.S. EPA Region 7
KEITH PANGBORN	KEARNEY & Assoc.
Sue Peterson	K-STATE
Chris Tumey	KDWP
John Denley	KS Livestock Assoc.
Tim Stroda	KS Pork Association
Lindsey Douglas	KDA KDA
Constantine Potosiadis	KDA
Deirdre Hein	Hein Law Firm
Joe Mosiman	Hein Law Firm
Sharon Schwartz	KDA



January 2009

TO: Kansas Legislators

FR: Dr. Fred A. Cholick *Fred A. Cholick*
Dean, College of Agriculture
Director, K-State Research and Extension
Kansas State University

Dean of the College of Agriculture
Director of K-State Research and
Extension

113 Waters Hall
Manhattan, KS 66506-4008
785-532-6147
Fax: 785-532-6563
<http://www.oznet.ksu.edu>

RE: Kansas Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Alternative Crops Annual Report

The Kansas Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Alternative Crops (KCSAAC) was established by Senate Bill 534 and passed by the 2000 Kansas Legislature out of concern for the future survival of family farms in Kansas. KCSAAC, a center within Kansas State University Research and Extension, works in partnership with state and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations and agricultural organizations to assist family farmers and ranchers to boost farm profitability, protect natural resources and enhance rural communities.

The Center is required to provide an annual report to the Senate and House Agriculture Committees. The 2008 annual KCSAAC report is enclosed and we will stand for any questions during our regular agriculture briefing. We have been able to leverage considerably more federal dollars, using the Center's state dollar investment (FY09 - \$71,695). The Center has been successful in addressing sustainable agriculture issues and problems of Kansas family farms.

KCSAAC has established its reputation as a resource for producers, professionals and organizations with interest in diversifying agricultural production, increasing farm income through value added products, resource enhancement, and conserving natural resources.

As a result of partnerships and collaborations with state agencies such as Kansas Department of Agriculture, Kansas Department of Commerce, non profit organizations such as the Kansas Rural Center and agricultural organizations such as the Kansas Graziers Association and the Kansas Organic Producers, the center and its partners have identified needs, designed programs, and sought outside resources to benefit the citizens of Kansas.

Please contact me or the KCSAAC Director or Coordinator if you have questions regarding the Kansas Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Alternative Crops.
KCSAAC Director, Pat Murphy, 785-532-5838 or jmurphy@ksu.edu
KCSAAC Coordinator, Jana Beckman, 785-532-1440 or beckman@ksu.edu

cc: Sue Peterson, Steven Graham, Daryl Buchholz

Kansas State University
Agricultural Experiment
Station and Cooperative
Extension Service

K-State Research and
Extension is an equal
opportunity provider and

Ag & Natural Resources Committee
Date 1-13-09
Attachment 1



Energy and Input Costs Spark Increased Interest in Sustainable Cropping Systems

Cover crops, long-term crop rotations, integrated pest management and other practices used in natural and organic production can reduce input use, erosion, runoff, improve a farm's profits and protect natural resources. On May 2, ten Extension agents attended a sustainable agriculture tour held in conjunction with the Kansas Association of County Agricultural Agents 2008 Spring Meeting. Tour stops included the Jim and Sue Keating farm, Homestead Milling, New Cambria, KS and Advanced Enterprises, a sorghum flour processing mill. On October 2, farmer educators at the "Integrated Management Strategies for Sustainable Cropping Systems" workshop and tours described and demonstrated practices that contribute to sustainable and organic cropping systems. Tour stops included Hartter Feed and Seed and the Eugene Edelman farm, Sabetha. Twenty-five people attended the October workshop and tours.



Above: Rachael Boyle, Phillips-Rooks Extension District #5, and Ron Seyfert, Central Kansas Extension District #3, learn about organic asparagus production at the Jim and Sue Keating Farm, Minneapolis.

The Center collaborates and facilitates with partners to develop multidisciplinary projects and activities directed towards research and outreach needs expressed by Kansas producers and other stakeholders.

Since the Center's inception in 2001, \$625,000 of state funding has resulted in the award of \$4.2 million dollars of grant funds for sustainable agriculture projects in Kansas.*

The projects funded in 2008 include:

- 2008 Kansas Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program
- 21st Century Farmers' Markets
- Promoting Kansas Farmers' Markets
- 2008 Kansas SARE Professional Development Program

* approximate amounts

Producers Adjust Grazing/Livestock Management Practices

Members of the Kansas Graziers Association were surveyed to determine to what degree low stress animal handling techniques have been implemented in their operations.

- Forty percent have attended additional low stress animal handling workshops or seminars since low stress animal handling was taught at the 2007 Winter Grazing Conference
- Fifteen percent have discussed low stress handling techniques with others
- Sixteen percent have used low stress handling techniques when rotating animals between pastures
- Twenty-two percent have used low stress handling techniques when working, loading or unloading livestock

Pat Murphy, Director • Jana Beckman, Coordinator

3029 Throckmorton Hall, Manhattan KS, 66506

Phone: 785-532-1440 email: beckman@ksu.edu or jmurphy@ksu.edu



Kansas Farmers' Markets Highlighted at State Fair

To raise awareness and encourage Kansans to shop at local farmers' markets, KCSAAC participated in the K-State Research and Extension "We Know" promotion. "We Know Farmers' Markets" cards describing the benefits of buying locally grown foods were distributed at the K-State Research and Extension booth. Bookmarks with the web link to the Kansas Farmers' Market Directory and twenty-five informational packets on how to start a local farmers' market were distributed at the Kansas Department of Commerce booth.



Left: Tim Miller, NRCS Rangeland Specialist, describes how to identify native grasses and forbs. **Left to right,** Nathan Geiger, Doniphan County Extension, Tim Miller, and Dottie Harris, Jefferson County Conservation District.

Sessions Provide Training and Resources for Extension Agents and State Agency Staff

KCSAAC conducted and organized training sessions to provide information and resources for Extension agents and Conservation District staff who receive production, marketing and nutrition questions from producers and consumers. The topics, audience and attendance are listed below.

- Defining Food Labeling Terms - 60 Family and Consumer Science Extension Agents attended
- Value Added and Small Scale Food Processing, 50 Family and Consumer Science Extension Agents attended
- Eastern Kansas Forage School - 42 Agricultural Extension Agents attended
- Plant Identification and Cost Share Program Training Sessions - 30 Extension, Conservation District, NRCS and County Weed Department, attended
- Agritourism: From A to T - 55 Extension agents attended

The training sessions were funded with a grant from the USDA North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program.

Role of the Center

KCSAAC serves as a resource center for producers, organizations and agricultural professionals in search of information related to sustainable agriculture.

KCSAAC receives an average of 60 requests for assistance each month.

The most common requests involve sustainable cropping practices, farmers' market and labeling information, grant sources and grant writing resources, value-added processing, and livestock/grazing systems. 50 % of calls and emails are received from producers and 50% from extension, state agency and non-profit organizations.

The KCSAAC web site receives an average of 2000 visitors per month.

The calendar and reference library are the most commonly visited pages.

Visit the KCSAAC web site

<http://www.kansasustainableag.org>