

Approved: 04/02/09
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Taddiken at 8:30 a.m. on March 18, 2009 in Room 446-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Terry Bruce- excused
Senator Steve Morris- excused

Committee staff present:

Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jason Thompson, Revisor of Statutes Office
Kristen Kellems, Revisor of Statutes Office
Judy Seitz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Rhonda Janke, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Extension Specialist, Sustainable Cropping Systems, Department of Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources, Kansas State University (KSU)
Carole Jordan, Senior Director, Rural Development, Kansas Department of Commerce (DOC)
Constantine Cotsoradis, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA)
Tim Stroda, President-CEO, Kansas Pork Producers (KPP)
Karl Mueldener, Director, Bureau of Water, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)

Others attending:

See attached list.

Rhonda Janke, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Extension Specialist, Sustainable Cropping Systems, Department of Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources, Kansas State University, gave an "Update on Local Food Availability and Economic Potential in the Kansas River Valley". She used a power point slide presentation. She noted a sign that has been seen on Kansas highways is "One Kansas Farmer feeds 128 people + you." Dr. Janke said that Kansas has plenty of beef and wheat for Kansas residents.

According to a 2007 census, Kansas (population of 2.8 million) has 473 vegetable farms with 8,976 acres in vegetable production. There was a chart ([Attachment 1](#)) showing how many acres of vegetables and fruits are planted and how many days Kansas residents could be fed on those crops. Kansas is behind other states in fruit and vegetable production ranking 45 out of 50 states. The Kansas River Valley has historically been a major producer of vegetables and fruits. Dr. Janke said that a food shed is a place to keep food or a region or area from which you consume foods. Currently our food shed is global. Urban agriculture has resulted in significant amounts of food being grown in as well as surrounding food shed areas.

She said there is more consumer interest and awareness in local foods because they are perceived as fresh and healthy. She noted several recent publications promoting local fruits and vegetables. Dr. Janke also noted that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is providing funding in the Farm Bill for specialty crop grants. K-State recently hosted the First Annual Kansas River Valley Local Foods Meet and Greet (brochure on file in Senator Taddiken's office) bringing together producers, buyers, and chefs to discuss local food utilization.

Carole Jordan, Senior Director, Rural Development, Kansas Department of Commerce, reported that local foods are providing growing markets even in a time of economic downturn ([Attachment 2](#)). She said the American Farm Bureau announced the biggest food trend of 2008 was local foods and created a new word - "locavore." which means a person who seeks out and consumes locally grown foods. There is also a growing farm-to-cuisine movement. Ms. Jordan noted that following the interest in local foods is an increasing desire for "agri-tainment" which includes enjoyment of u-pick or agritourism or farmers' markets. Ms. Jordan mentioned the luncheon to be held the next day to celebrate Kansas Ag Day; which will be co-sponsored by the KDA, KDC and the Commodities groups. The food served at the luncheon is from Kansas producers all over the state.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Agriculture Committee at 8:30 a.m. on March 18, 2009 in Room 446-N of the Capitol.

Dr. Janke took questions from the Committee.

Chairman Taddiken opened the hearing on **SB 316 - Application of swine waste.**

Kristen Kellems, Revisor of Statutes Office, reviewed **SB 316**. She said this bill amends two statutes requiring the Secretary of Agriculture to review and approve nutrient utilization plans (NUPs) that provide for the application of swine waste. After approval by the Secretary, the plans are then submitted to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to review before permits allowing for the application of wastewater are issued. Currently statutes do not provide funding for the KDA to review nutrient utilization plans. Ms. Kellems said this bill allows the review and approval of nutrient utilization plans depending on which agency has the funding.

Chairman Taddiken noted there were no proponents on **SB 316** but KDA is requesting that they not be required to review and approve NUPs since there is no funding for this program.

Constantine Cotsoradis, Deputy Secretary, KDA, presented neutral testimony for **SB 316 (Attachment 3)**. He said the KDA was required to describe to the Senate Ways and Means Subcommittee how the agency could meet a 10% state general fund reduction and the NUP reviews was a function that could be eliminated without compromising their ability to fulfill their core mission.

Tim Stroda, President-CEO, Kansas Pork Producers (KPP), gave neutral testimony on **SB 316 (Attachment 4)**. He said that while the KPP supports consolidation of programs they have concerns about the uncertainty the language provides. He further stated it would be difficult for producers to know which agency has oversight under the proposed language. The KPP requests that the Committee amend the language to provide the oversight duties to one agency.

Karl Mueldener, Director, Bureau of Water, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) presented testimony in opposition to **SB 316 (Attachment 5)**. He said the proposed bill potentially shifts work from the KDA to the KDHE without accounting for funding the work. Mr. Mueldener stated that **SB 316** takes a novel approach to the regulation of land-applied swine wastes, shifting the responsibility from one state agency to another state agency from one year to the next, not based on the purpose for the program in either of the respective agencies, but based solely on whether money has been appropriated for one of the agencies. Mr. Cotsoradis and Mr. Mueldener took questions from the Committee.

Chairman Taddiken recognized Representative Sharon Schwartz. She said her concern is that Kansas has a good program in place and it has allowed Kansas to do the responsible thing for the swine industry. She also is concerned from the producers standpoint that if the renewal and permitting process is held up because the agency does not have the resources to be able to accommodate the producers, it would put the producers in a bad position.

Senator Barnett moved that **SB 316** be passed; seconded by Senator Ostmeyer. There was discussion on the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 a.m.