

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Johnson at 3:30 p.m. on January 12, 2000, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative O'Brien - absent

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Marc Johnson, Dean and Director, Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service  
Greg Krissek, Assistant Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture  
Tracy Streeter, Executive Director, State Conservation Commission  
Stephen Paige, Director, Bureau of Consumer Health, Kansas Department of Health and Environment  
Mona Logan Magee, Executive Director, Doorstep, Inc.  
Jere White, Executive Director, Kansas Corn Growers Association and Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association

Others attending: See attached list

Dr. Marc Johnson, Dean and Director, Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service, submitted his annual report to the Legislature on Teamwork and Collaboration in Kansas. He explained that as a science and education agency, K-State Research and Extension works with many other agencies, businesses, universities, and foundations to support and advance research, education, and international programs for the betterment of people everywhere and especially in Kansas. He reported that for several years K-State Research and Extension has been creating various centers to bring together expertise from many areas to focus on key issues. He said that these centers, forums, and alliances involve researchers and extension specialists from several departments and colleges, including experts from governmental agencies and private industry, who work together on research and communicate and teach the results.

Dean Johnson reported that K-State and other land-grant universities throughout the United States have renewed their efforts to globalize instruction, research, and technical outreach. The continued strength of the agricultural economy of Kansas is dependent on maintaining international linkages and viable export markets. Dean Johnson gave an overview of several of these international programs and their value to Kansas. (Attachment 1)

Greg Krissek, Assistant Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, related how K-State has provided the department with the technical expertise necessary to successfully implement their regulatory mission. He said that K-State research and technical expertise combined with the experience and know-how of KDA employees enables the agency to regulate in a reasonable, common sense manner. Mr. Krissek highlighted their meat and poultry program and the implementation of HAACP and Food Quality Protection Act implementation as prime examples of cooperation and assistance. He noted other cooperative efforts, including: swine nutrient management regulations, crop profiles, Blue River water quality protection programs, water quality best management practices, special pesticides registration, and the TMDL agriculture working group. (Attachment 2)

Tracy Streeter, Executive Director, State Conservation Commission, reported that K-State and the State Conservation Commission have worked together on a number of research issues aimed mainly at solving water quality and water quantity problems since the commission was created in 1937. He noted that since the inception of the Governor's Water Quality Initiative and subsequent Buffer Initiative, the collaboration has been even more pronounced. Examples of projects he highlighted include: Mission Lane Atrazine, Upper Black Vermillion Dairy, Governor's Buffer Initiative, Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation, and Fecal

## CONTINUATION SHEET

Coliform Bacteria Study. (Attachment 3)

Stephen Paige, Director, Bureau of Consumer Health, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, related cooperative endeavors between K-State and the department promoting food protection in Kansas. He said that food protection is a shared responsibility between industry, regulatory agencies, academia, and the consumer. He explained that the role of industry is to produce safe food products that meet or exceed minimum science-based standards established by regulatory agencies; academia provides the mechanism for providing educational information regarding food safety to industry and consumers; and consumers contribute by learning and applying basic food safety rules. (Attachment 4)

Mona Logan Magee, Executive Director of Doorstep, Inc., an emergency crisis center for the poor in Topeka, said she is extremely grateful for the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program and the difference it makes in the lives of the poor. She said that an EFNEP educator serving Doorstep families teaches, instructs, and provides important food and nutrition information. She explained that families are given healthy samples of food and are taught how to prepare the food at home. She reported that last year EFNEP made a difference in the lives of 702 families at Doorstep. (Attachment 5)

Jere White, Executive Director, Kansas Corn Growers Association and Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association, requested the introduction of a committee bill that would transfer the administration of the Kansas corn, grain sorghum, soybean, and wheat commissions from the Kansas Department of Agriculture to the private sector. (Attachment 6) Representative Feuerborn moved to introduce this bill as a committee bill. Seconded by Representative Freeborn, the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2000.