

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Taddiken at 8:40 a.m. on February 15, 2011, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Steve Morris - excused

Committee staff present:

Tamera Lawrence, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Jason Thompson, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Heather O'Hara, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Laura Younker, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Judy Seitz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Rod Winkler, Conservation Program Specialist, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA),  
Kansas FSA State Office  
Randy Stookey, Staff Legal Counsel, Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA)  
Leslie Kaufman, President/CEO, Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC)

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Taddiken welcomed Senator Allen Schmidt as a new Committee member. He was elected to take the seat of former Senator Janis Lee.

Chairman Taddiken welcomed the Kansas Livestock Association's Young Stockman's Academy to the Committee and asked each member of the academy to state their name and home town.

Senator Teichman made a motion to approve the February 3, 7 and 8 minutes. Motion seconded by Senator Abrams. Motion passed.

Heather O'Hara, Kansas Legislative Research Department, distributed information as a follow-up to the January 25, 2011, joint meeting of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Senate Natural Resources Committee and the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. (Attachment 1)

Rod Winkler, Conservation Program Specialist, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Kansas FSA State Office, presented information on the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and specifically enrollments. (Attachment 2) There are three main components to the CRP program: general enrollments – typically larger fields; continuous enrollment – small acreages and buffer strips with a focus on water quality and wildlife habitat. Mr. Winkler said that there are 29 million acres of cropland in the state with 2.7 million acres enrolled in CRP. He noted that one of the maps in his handout is color coded to show the expiration years for CRP. Another map shows the number of CRP enrolled acres for each county.

Mr. Winkler took questions from the Committee.

Chairman Taddiken opened the hearing on **SB 186 – Pesticides; hearing prior to denial, suspension or revocation of license, registration or certification.**

Tamera Lawrence, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, reviewed **SB 186**. She said this bill amends K.S.A. 2-2451 of the Kansas pesticide law. Last year K.S.A. 2-2449 and K.S.A. 2-2450 were amended and conflicts with K.S.A. 2-2451. **SB 186** provides an opportunity for a hearing and previously a hearing was required.

Randy Stookey, Staff Attorney, Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA), appeared in support of **SB 186** (Attachment 3). He offered to stand for questions.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Agriculture Committee at 8:30 a.m. on February 15, 2011, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

Leslie Kaufman, President/CEO, Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC), appeared on behalf of the KCC and the Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Associations (KARA) in support of **SB 186** with a proposed amendment to the bill (Attachment 4). This amendment would provide for the Secretary of Agriculture's authority to suspend licenses permissive and not mandatory.

Ms. Kaufman took questions from the Committee.

Chairman Taddiken closed the hearing on **SB 186**.

Senator Ostmeyer made a motion to accept the proposed amendment; seconded by Senator Love. Motion carried.

Senator Ostmeyer made a motion to pass SB 186 with amendments. Motion seconded by Senator Francisco. Motion carried.

Chairman Taddiken noted that **Executive Reorganization Order (ERO) No. 40 - Transferring the Agriculture Products Development Division within the Department of Commerce to the Department of Agriculture and renaming the Marketing and Promotions Program; consolidating the Kansas Animal Health Department and the Livestock Commissioner within the Department of Agriculture as the Animal Health Division; consolidating the State Conservation Commission within the Department of Agriculture as the Conservation Division** has been referred to this Committee. He said that his intent is not to hold hearings on **ERO No. 40**. Several years ago this Committee held extensive hearings on a bill that would have merged the Animal Health Department and the State Conservation Commission into the Kansas Department of Agriculture. Staff will prepare an overview of testimony that was presented during those hearings.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 a.m.