

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Derek Schmidt at 8:30 a.m. on January 15, 2003 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Corbin, excused

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research
Amy Cramer, Legislative Research
Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes
Judy Swanson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Rebecca Reed, Kansas Dept. Of Agriculture
Kevin Lickteig, Grain Sorghum Commission
Ed Mader, Soybean Commission
David Frey, Wheat Commission

Others attending: See attached list

Chairman Schmidt welcomed the Committee members and introduced 2003 legislative staff.

Senator Schmidt moved to introduce a bill correcting a technical error in the “endangering the food supply” statute. Senator Umbarger seconded the motion, and motion passed.

Senator Umbarger urged Committee members to attend a bio-diesel information meeting on January 23 at the Capitol Plaza.

Rebecca Reed, Kansas Department of Agriculture, presented a Grain Commodity Commissions Election Update. (Attachment 1)

Kevin Lickteig, Administrator for the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission presented their Annual Report. (Attachment 2) Senator Lee suggested a presentation by the ethanol plant be given to the Committee. Senator Tyson noted that expenses were lowered by 18% last year which shows how bad agriculture is doing already, and this should be kept in mind when the Legislature looks at their budget. They are continuing their efforts in marketing ethanol. There were fewer acres of grain sorghum in Kansas this year over last year. Research, marketing, feasibility studies and promotion have all been affected by the lower budget. Public service announcements and partnerships with other organizations/groups for cooperative advertising was suggested by Senator Downey.

Ed Mader, Chairman of Kansas Soybean Commission, presented their Annual Report. (Attachment 3) The Commission is part of a federal check-off program. Their top priority is primarily production

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE AAA at TIME on January 15, 2003 in Room RRR of the Capitol.

research. In the Southeast part of the United States, it is cheaper to import soybeans rather than using domestically-grown beans. It is a misconception that bio-diesel fuel freezes or jells easier than regular fuel.

David Frey, Kansas Wheat Commission, presented their Annual Report. (Attachment 4) Over 38 percent of the United States was plagued by severe drought last year. Efforts to change trade policy with Cuba have paid off. Jagger is still the most popular wheat in Kansas.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.