

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Morris at 10:00 a.m. on February 9, 2000, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
 Jill Wolters, Revisor of Statutes
 Nancy Kippes, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Donald Biggs
Representative Gwen Welshimer
Dr. Marc Johnson, Dean of Kansas State University College of Agriculture
Dr. Rhonda Janke, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist, Kansas State University
Stephen E. Moring, President, Botanica Analytica Research Laboratories
Peter Rogan, President, Phylogenetix Laboratories, Inc.
Paul Johnson, Board Member Kansas Rural Center
Dr. Ray Burns, Valley Falls

Others attending: (See Attached)

Senator Huelskamp made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2000 meeting as submitted. Senator Umbarger seconded. The motion carried.

Mark Beck, Director, Division of Property Valuation, Kansas Department of Revenue, provided written documents requested by the committee (Attachment 1).

Hearing on: **SB 534 - establishing a center of excellence on sustainable agriculture and alternative crops at Kansas State University**

Senator Donald Biggs testified in support of **SB 534**, a bill establishing a center for excellence at Kansas State University. He stated the bill provides a vehicle for alternatives to stabilize and grow smaller family farms and rural communities (Attachment 2).

Representative Gwen Welshimer testified in support of **SB 534**, stating that Kansas needs a new sustainable, exportable agricultural industry, not to replace our bountifully grain industry, but to diversify and add value (Attachment 3).

Dr. Marc Johnson, Dean of Kansas State University College of Agriculture, appeared before the committee in support of **SB 534**. Dr. Johnson stated that substantial work in these areas already is taking place in their labs, in the fields, and with their cooperators (Attachment 4).

Dr. Rhonda Janke, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist, Kansas State University, provided written testimony to support **SB 534**, stating there are opportunities for income into agriculture and into Kansas specifically related to medicinal herbs (Attachment 5).

Stephen E. Moring, President, Botanica Analytica Research Laboratories, gave testimony in support of **SB 534**, providing a chart showing medicinal plants of agricultural importance for Kansas, the demand and wholesale value (Attachment 6).

Peter Rogan, President, Phylogenetix Laboratories, Inc. stated that he feels the time is coming when there will be an FDA mandate for certification.

Paul Johnson, Board Member Kansas Rural Center and full-time market gardener, testified in support of

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, Room 423-S of the Capitol,
10:00 a.m., on February 8, 2000.

SB 534, stating sustainable agriculture is economically profitable, environmentally sound and it works for the environment and it works for the rural community all at the same time (Attachment 7)

Dr. Ray Burns, Valley Falls, testified to encourage support and passage of legislation to create a “Center of Excellence on Sustainable Agriculture and Alternative Crops” at Kansas State University, in **SB 534** (Attachment 8).

The hearing on **SB 534** was continued to February 14, 2000.