

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Taddiken at 8:30 a.m. on January 29, 2008 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jason Thompson, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Matt Todd, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Judy Seitz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Mike Brown, Vice-Chairman, Kansas Wheat Commission
Kenlon Johannes, Administrator, Kansas Soybean Commission
Bob Timmons, Chairman, Kansas Corn Commission

Others attending:

See attached list.

There were no bill introductions.

Mike Brown, Vice-Chairman, Kansas Wheat Commission, gave the annual report (Attachment 1). The Commission was established in 1957 to represent the states' wheat producers in the areas of research, domestic marketing, international marketing, education, and communication. The Commission is a nine member producer board - seven elected and two appointed by the sitting board. The 2007 crop of 288 million bushels marked the second consecutive year of below average wheat production. A 10 mill per bushel assessment or one penny per bushel provides the funding for the Commission's programs and activities.

Mr. Brown took questions from the Committee.

Kenlon Johannes, Administrator, Kansas Soybean Commission, reported on the activities of the Commission (Attachment 2). The Kansas Soybean Commission is part of a federal checkoff program. The Commission collects one-half of one percent of the net value of a soybean sale of a producer collected by the first purchaser in the state. One-half of the funds are sent to the United Soybean Board (USB) for national and international projects. Nine soybean farmers volunteer their time to serve on the Soybean Commission. He reviewed the FY 2008 marketing plan and budget. He also reviewed the research projects funded as of October 1, 2007. He noted an innovative research project which deals with biodiesel glycerin based hydrogen production for electrical generation from a hydrogen internal combustion engine. Information was provided on where to purchase biodiesel fuel in bulk and retail. The Commission is working with Kansas pork producers and USB and pork check off to educate Kansans to understand the importance of the livestock industry. It provides income for those who raise the livestock, but also provides a tax base that builds schools, bridges and roads. The Commission is working with the Agriculture Marketing Division, Kansas Department of Commerce, on the possibility of shipping Kansas soybeans to China.

Mr. Johannes stood for questions.

Bob Timmons, Chairman, Kansas Corn Commission, gave the annual legislative report and the financial audit report for June 30, 2007 and 2006 (Attachment 3). Kansas farmers harvested 528 million bushels of corn, up 50 percent from 2006. Use in livestock feed remains the largest market for corn. The Commission works to increase the use of ethanol in Kansas.

Mr. Timmons offered to stand for questions

The Grain Sorghum Commission submitted a written copy of their 2008 Annual Report (Attachment 4).

Meeting adjourned.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Agriculture at 8:30 a.m. on January 29, 2008 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.