

Approved: March 29, 2010

Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Rocky Fund at 3:30 p.m. on March 11, 2010, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Chairman Powell - Excused
Representative Hayzlett - Excused
Representative Hineman - Excused
Representative Johnson - Excused
Representative Light - Excused
Representative Moxley - Excused
Representative Palmer - Excused

Committee staff present:

Jason Thompson, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Daniel Yoza, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Pat Matzek, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Jerry Jeschke, Vice-Chairman, Kansas Soybean Commission
Jere White, Executive Director, Kansas Corn Commission
Jeff Casten, Chairman, Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission
Doug Keesling, Chairman, Kansas Wheat Commission

Others attending:

See attached list.

Vice Chairman Fund opened the meeting with introduction of Judy Willingham, Kansas Environmental Leadership Program (KELP) Coordinator, along with members of the KELP class, who were in attendance to observe the Committee at work.

Jerry Jeschke, Vice-Chairman, Kansas Soybean Commission (KSC), gave a presentation on the Kansas Soybean Commission (Attachment 1), stating the Soybean Commission has been authorized and operates under Kansas statutes and is also part of the federal soybean checkoff program. Included in the handouts is a copy of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Marketing Plan (Attachment 2), which summarizes this fiscal year's program, including some information on the project areas the KSC funds. A Soybean Checkoff Research Database, a summary of production research (Attachment 3), Statements of Activities (Attachment 4), and Kansas Biodiesel Fuel Usage Survey Results (Attachment 5) are also enclosed. Additional information can be obtained on its website at www.kansassoybeans.org.

Jere White, Executive Director, Kansas Corn Commission (KCC) (Attachment 6), spoke on behalf of the KCC, advising in 2009, over 598 million bushels of corn were harvested, breaking the record of 507 million bushels set in 2007, as well as a record yield of 155 bushels of corn per acre. The corn checkoff rate remains at a half-cent per bushel. The corn checkoff is fully refundable and refund vouchers are typically processed and checks mailed within 2-3 working days of receipt. The KCC funds research projects to improve corn, corn production techniques and to develop advances in corn products. The KCC is also active in groups like the Corn Farmers Coalition, which provides factual and verifiable information on corn farming to decision makers and other. Also provided with Mr. White's comments, are copies of the commission's FY 2009 Financial Audit (Attachment 7), the FY 2009 Year-End Budget Report (Attachment 8), and the FY 2010 Budget (Attachment 9). Additional information can be obtained on its website at www.ksgains.com.

Jeff Casten, Chairman, Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission (KGSC) (Attachment 10), presented information on behalf of the KGSC, stating Kansas' total yield of 224 million bushels of grain sorghum was up 10 million bushels from last year and ranks Kansas first nationally again with 58.6% of the nations' total sorghum crop. The KGSC takes pride in the total industry results as it invests checkoff dollars heavily into production research and breeding on a national level. Research funding includes development and utilization of sorghum

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as a feedstock for biofuel production, and enhancing sorghum yield and profitability through nitrogen management, to name a few. Additional information is available on its website at www.ksgrainsorghum.org.

Doug Keesling, Chairman, Kansas Wheat Commission (KWC) (Attachment 11), advises the KWC is funded by the wheat assessment, which collects a penny-and-a-half per bushel of wheat at the first point of sale. In the area of research, the KWC is on the cusp of new partnerships, collaborations and innovations that Kansas wheat farmers have been eagerly awaiting. Recently, there have been large private industry tech providers and seed companies enter back into the business of wheat variety development. Through the wheat assessment, farmers have invested millions of dollars in new variety development at Kansas State University (KSU) over the past 50 years. That strong partnership with KSU has resulted in a vibrant public breeding program in our region and has advanced countless varieties adapted throughout the state. Additional information can be obtained on its website at www.kansaswheat.org.

Kansas Wheat Commission Financial Statement with Independent Auditors' Report on file in Chairman Powell's Office.

A written report from the Kansas Sunflower Commission is also included (Attachment 12).

The next meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.