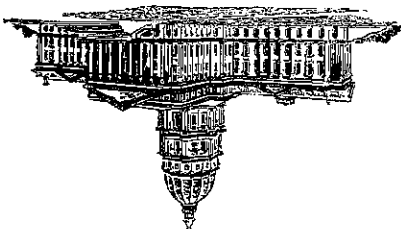


STATE OF KANSAS
SENATE CHAMBER



26TH DISTRICT

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Local Food and Farm

Chairman Love and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to present you the report of the Local Food and Farm Task Force. The Local Food and Farm Task Force was formed by legislation proposed by Sen. Tom Hawk of Manhattan. Senate Bill 286 was passed in 2014. The members of the task force include the following,

Chairman Ron Brown, Governor Appointee

Sen. Dan Kerschen, Senate Agriculture Chair Appointee

Rep. Adam Lusker, House Agriculture and Natural Resources Chair Appointee

Dr. Cary Rivard, Director of Kansas State Research and Extension Horticulture and Forestry and Extension Vegetable and Fruit Crop Specialist.

Mr. Loren Swenson, Governor Appointee

Mr. David Coltrain, Governor Appointee

Mrs. Annarose White, Appointment Secretary of the Department of Agriculture

Sen. Tom Hawk, Ex-post Facto Member

Several are with us here today.

All of these folks are well schooled in the topic of local foods. It has been a pleasure working with them. I've learned more about local food and farming in the last 18 months than I ever thought I'd know. The task force was formed in August 2014. We met 11 times at the following places.

Local Food and Farm Task Force Meeting Dates

1. November 14, 2014	KDA Manhattan
2. December 12, 2014	KDA Manhattan
3. January 23, 2015	Landon State Office Building, Topeka
4. February 20, 2015	Kansas State Capitol, Topeka
5. March 13, 2015	Kansas State Capitol, Topeka
6. April 17, 2015	Dillon's Headquarters, Hutchinson
7. May 8, 2015	Kansas State Capitol, Topeka
8. August 31, 2015	KDA, Manhattan
9. October 15, 2015	KDA, Manhattan
10. November 19, 2015	KDA, Manhattan
11. December 18, 2015	Conference Call hosted by KDA, Manhattan

A list of topics and presentations can be found in your packet. The Kansas Rural Center played a major role in steering the project from the outset. Much of the data compiled by the Kansas Department of Agriculture will be shared with you by our chairman. I will be turning the presentation over to Chairman Brown shortly. He will give you the specifics of the document as well as insight into the task force findings, both challenges and advancements.

Three things that impressed me about this project.

1. The amount of information on this topic that was brought forward by this Task Force.
2. The number of interested parties directly involved in local food production as well as those outside the area of production.
3. The passion and dedication to this area of agricultural production by those who offered their own experiences of hard work and perseverance to an industry finding its place in the marketing of specialty crops.

The local food and farm market movement is growing in interest all across our state. There are opportunities for new farm growers as well as traditional producers who want to transition into support opportunities for their existing operations.

Utilizing crops that take less water and fertilizer also are incentives. There are a host of discussion points on this topic of food production and this report is a start to promote all agriculture and add economic value for producers and quality food products for consumers.