

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Derek Schmidt at 8:30 a.m. on January 15, 2002 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Taddiken (excused)

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
 Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes
 Betty Bomar, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:
 Jamie Clover Adams, Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture

Others attending: See attached list

Jamie Clover Adams, Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA), introduced members of her staff, Greg Foley, Assistant Secretary, and Rebecca Reed an assistant. Secretary Adams submitted the Fiscal Year 2001 Annual Report of the Kansas Department of Agriculture, together with a Kansas Department of Agriculture 2002 Session Legislative Briefing Book. (A copy of both publications are on file in the office of Legislative Research)

Ms. Adams presented an overview of the Department, stating KDA is primarily a regulatory agency. It is charged by law to ensure: a safe meat, milk and egg supply; the responsible and judicious use of pesticides and nutrients; the integrity of weighing and measuring devices in commerce; and to ensure the state's waters are put to beneficial use. The agency also has a role in education and advocacy for agriculture.

Ms. Adams proposes repealing the Kansas Apiary Inspection Act, repealing the Livestock Remedy statute, repealing the Counter Freezer Subprogram, amending the Obstruction of Streams Act and the enactment of an agency-wide fee fund increase.

Ms. Adams stated KDA receives 55% of its budget from the State General Fund, 29.5% from licenses and fees, and 15.5% from Federal grants. The proposed increase in fees will raise approximately \$2 Million leaving a short fall of approximately \$1.2 Million. The short fall is primarily the result of an increase in employee medical benefits and administrative costs.

Ms. Adams stated the Agency has taken a proactive role in response to the Karnal bunt wheat threat to protect export markets for Kansas wheat; has actively supported a wheat export initiative for funding by the Kansas Wheat Commission to open markets for high-quality Kansas wheat in Mexico; signed a memorandum of agreement with the North American Weed Free Forage Association to open new markets for Kansas producers who raise weed-free certified forage; implemented a boll weevil trapping program to assure USDA and the United States cotton industry that Kansas is free of boll weevils, which negated the need for a statewide boll weevil eradication program paid for by growers. The Agency proposed, supported and developed reasonable, customer-friendly laws and regulation; ensured the availability of pesticides and other innovative pest management practices; supported the Agriculture and Speciality Chemical Remediation Act, hosted the 2nd Agriculture Earth Day, and in conjunction with the Department of Wildlife and Parks and the State Conservation Commission, brought together landowner, conservation, commodity, environmental, wildlife and agribusiness interests that formed the Kansas Farm Bill Conservation Coalition. The Agency further encouraged and helped the State Conservation Commission in maintaining water quality.

Senator Morris moved, seconded by Senator Umbarger, that conceptually the Secretary of KDA's fee requests be introduced as a committee bill. The voice vote was in favor of the motion.

Senator Schmidt moved, seconded by Senator Morris, that a bill be introduced that amends the animal disease act to include plants, and increases the criminal penalties. The voice vote was in favor of the motion.

CONTINUATION SHEET

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2002.