

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Powell at 3:30 p.m. on January 28, 2009, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Mike Corrigan, 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:

Norm Jennings, Chairman, Kansas Grape and Wine Industry Advisory Council

Others attending:

See attached list.

Norm Jennings, Chairman, Kansas Grape and Wine Industry Advisory Council, spoke on the progress made by the Kansas Grape and Wine Industry Advisory Council since their inception in 2004. (Attachment 1).

Some high points of the presentation were:

- Currently, there are 22 licensed farm wineries and eight farm winery outlets in the state of Kansas. Some are in the beginning phases of development.
- In 2009, Kansas State University received a specialty crop block grant from the Department of Agriculture to provide educational opportunities. Highland Community College in Wamego is offering courses in enology and viticulture.
- At the Kansas State Fair, the grape stomp has become a popular event. Last year was the first year fair-goers could purchase an unopened bottle of wine at the State Fair to take home with them.
- This year the council is seeking additional statutory changes that will help Kansas wineries add value to and market their wines, and to encourage tourism. One of the recommended changes is to allow farm wineries to sell at farmers' markets.

At the conclusion of the presentation, questions were asked and comments made by members of the Committee.

Chairman Powell asked Committee members to review, for approval, minutes of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee dated January 13, 14 and 15, 2009. Representative Hayzlett made motion to approve. Representative Svaty seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Representative Lukert introduced a bill on a scholarship program for the veterinary school at Manhattan. Representative Fund seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.