

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Johnson at 3:30 p.m. on January 19, 2000, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
 Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes Office
 Kay Scarlett, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

 Alan Stevens, Executive Secretary, Kansas Greenhouse Growers Association
 Connie Fischer, Director, Agriculture Products Development Division, Kansas Department of
 Commerce and Housing

Others attending: See attached list

Alan Stevens, Executive Secretary, Kansas Greenhouse Growers Association, requested introduction of a committee bill to include the wording "greenhouses and greenhouse ornamental crops" within the definition of agriculture in the Kansas Statutes. (Attachment 1) Representative Weiland moved to introduce this proposed legislation as a committee bill. Seconded by Representative Dahl, the motion carried.

Representative Tedder moved to introduce a committee bill to allow producers a tax credit for the 1 percent they are required to pay to FSA on agriculture loans. Seconded by Representative Feuerborn, the motion carried.

Connie Fischer, Director, Agriculture Products Development Division, Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing, in her annual report to the legislature gave an overview of the Agriculture Division's accomplishments for FY 1999, as well as some of the Division's current and future endeavors. She introduced staff that were in attendance and highlighted various projects in the Agricultural Value Added Center, International Trade, and the From the Land of Kansas Program.

Ms. Fischer reported that the Agricultural Value Added Center provided \$444,469 in commercialization loans to nine companies in FY 1999; these loans were leveraged with \$2,555,662 in matching funds. The Division joined with USDA to fund research to promote canola production in Kansas, providing \$60,000 over three years, while USDA contributed \$141,347. She reported a 20 percent increase in membership in the From the Land of Kansas Program in FY 1999 and successful sales at the Olathe and Belle Plaine Travel and Information Centers; however, Kansas Connection Catalog sales continued to lag behind the cost of publishing and would probably not be republished. She also discussed development of an ethanol template and the success in dairy industry recruitment in western Kansas.

Ms. Fischer reported that the 3rd annual Value Added Conference is being planned for FY 2001. Breakout sessions for this conference will include containerized grain marketing and agri-tourism. She explained that plans are underway to partner with the Trade Division to present all the international services KDOC&H has to offer to all commodity and grower organizations in the state. A Mexican Wheat Marketing Research Project and the "Farm to Fork" display at the Kansas State Fair were also discussed. Ms. Fischer said that technical assistance will continue to be the cornerstone of the Division and that marketing their services to the agriculture community is a priority in FY 2000. (Attachment 2)

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2000.