

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The Committee met jointly with the House Environment and Senate Natural Resources Committees and was called to order by Joann Freeborn, Chairman of the House Environment Committee, at 3:30 p.m. on January 10, 2000, in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Feuerborn - excused
Representative O'Brien - absent

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Bill Hargrove, Director, Kansas Center for Ag Resources and the Environment, Kansas State University

Others attending: See attached list

Dr. Bill Hargrove, Director, Kansas Center for Ag Resources and the Environment, Kansas State University, reviewed confined animal lagoon research being conducted by Kansas State University. He presented slides and explained the latest results of Dr. Jay Ham's *Field Evaluation of Animal-Waste Lagoons: Seepage Rates and Ground Water Quality*. Research topics included: waste chemistry and biology, lagoon seepage rates, subsurface nitrogen movement, potential impact on ground water quality, and improved construction and management. Dr. Hargrove reported that to date their research has found that seepage rates are low, averaging 0.047 inches per day, far less than the 0.25 inch per day standard. They have found that some nitrogen does move into the subsoil; however, in many cases much of this nitrogen remains close to the lagoon. He said there is the possibility that this storehouse of nitrogen under the lagoon could become mobile and move toward the groundwater when the lagoon is emptied and dried.

Dr. Hargrove reported that their research shows the potential impact of lagoons is very site specific and species specific. He explained that soil properties and water table depth at the proposed construction site are combined with data on species and waste management plans to calculate a maximum allowable seepage rate. He said that earthen-lined lagoons can probably be used safely at many locations; however, plastic-lined lagoons may be needed in certain areas. Dr. Hargrove said design tools need to be developed that regulators can use to customize lagoon requirements for each permit, that the key to any successful approach will be to design a system that gives engineers and producers the flexibility to explore many possible approaches to lagoon design. ([Attachment 1](#))

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2000.