

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Taddiken at 8:30 a.m. on January 17, 2007 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:  
Derek Schmidt- excused

Committee staff present:  
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research  
Art Griggs, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Judy Seitz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:  
Adrian Polansky, Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture  
Constantine Cotsoradis, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture

Others attending:  
See attached list.

Adrian Polansky, Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, introduced members of his staff:  
Constantine Cotsoradis, Deputy Secretary  
Dale Lambley, Special Assistant  
Carol Jordan, Legislative and Policy  
Erik Wisner, Legislative and Policy  
Lisa Taylor, Public Information Officer  
Ida Kirmse, Homeland Security Specialist

Secretary Polansky, reported on the state of Kansas agriculture ([Attachment 1](#)).

He said the winter storm in western Kansas resulted in the loss of cattle, although not as many as expected. There are other costs to the farmers and ranchers as a result of the storm. President Bush has declared 44 counties in western Kansas a major disaster so that federal money will be available for emergency measures.

He also discussed the efforts to build the bioscience industry.

The KDA added a homeland security position in 2006 to coordinate efforts in the areas of food defense and plant health. He also stated that dam inundation maps are needed in order to have emergency action plans.

Secretary Polansky said that the KDA is an advocate for renewable energy production and use. Members of the Governors' Ethanol Coalition have a long-term vision for renewable fuels, not just ethanol, but also biodiesel and other fuels made from biomass.

The 25 x 25' initiative is that by 2025, renewable energy from America's farms, forests and ranches will provide 25 percent of the total energy used in the United States. Kansas is one of the four states with a legislative resolution in support of 25 x 25'.

Legislation was passed in 2006 to provide for a production incentive of 30 cents a gallon for biodiesel.

The Governor's Rural Life Task Force advises her on rural issues. Budget enhancements have been proposed for existing rural development programs and a pilot state KAN-STEP (Kansas Small Towns Environment Program) program. This program is a non-competitive, self-help program for communities to address water, sewer and public building needs.

The KDA has convened the Grape and Wine Advisory Council and participated in promotional activities for grapes and wine at the State Fair and other events.

Secretary Polansky also reviewed bills introduced in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives to ensure that all meat and poultry products are inspected under a seamless national inspection system; and to eliminate the prohibition on interstate shipment of state-inspected meat and poultry products.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Agriculture at 8:30 a.m. on January 17, 2007 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

A printed copy of the Kansas Department of Agriculture Annual Report (Attachment 2) was distributed to committee members.

Secretary Polansky took questions from the committee.

Constantine Cotsoradis also answered questions.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 23.