

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Powell at 3:30 p.m. on January 14, 2009, in Room 783 Docking State Office Building.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Pat Matzek, Administrative Assistant
Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research
Mike Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes Office
Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes Office

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Adrian Polansky, Secretary of Agriculture

Others attending:

See attached list.

Secretary of Agriculture, Adrian Polansky (Attachment 1) spoke to the Committee sharing some of the high points from last year.

- **Farm Sector Holds Steady** - Volatility in 2008 in agriculture not only in market prices but in fuel costs. In terms of cattle, a new record high of \$6.32 billion from cattle sales.
- **National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility** - Manhattan has been chosen for the National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility. The facility is equipped to handle situations of a foreign animal diseases.
- **Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008** - There is now opportunity to dryland farm on land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and continues our investment in biofuels.
- **Interstate Sales of State-Inspected Meat** - New farm bill authorizes state-inspected meat and poultry processing plants to sell across state lines. Working with The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture to develop sensible regulations.
- **Food Safety Consolidation - SB 584** became law October 1. Electronic reports available online at www.ksda.gov/food_safety.
- **Homeland Security** - Working with the Kansas Animal Health Department and Oklahoma animal health officials on an exercise that tests our state's ability to stop animal movement in the event of a foreign animal disease in another state.
- **Blender Pump Project** - Blender pump station planned to open in Topeka, January 28, on the Wanamaker Corridor.

The 2008 Annual Report of the Kansas Department of Agriculture (Attachment 2) was distributed as information and is on file with the Kansas Department of Agriculture web site www.ksda.gov.

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

Upon completion of the questions and discussion, Constantine Cotsoradis, Kansas Department of Agriculture, introduced four bills:

- **Dairy Program**
- **Water Appropriations Program**
- **Weights and Measures Program**
- **Pesticide Law**

Representative Dan Johnson moved to introduce the bills as presented. The motion was seconded. All members voted in favor of this motion.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.