

Approved: February 2, 2010

Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Rocky Fund at 3:30 p.m. on January 21, 2010, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Chairman Powell - Excused
Representative Hayzlett - Excused
Representative Johnson - Excused
Representative Wetta - Excused

Committee staff present:

Jason Thompson, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Daniel Yoza, 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:

Acting Secretary of Agriculture, Josh Svaty, Kansas Department of Agriculture
Erik Wisner, Policy Analyst, Kansas Department of Agriculture

Others attending:

See attached list.

Vice Chairman Fund opened the meeting with introduction of Acting Secretary of Agriculture, Josh Svaty, Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA), who gave a brief introduction of his staff, stating the KDA also has field offices in Stockton, Stafford and Garden City and a resource station in Parsons, Kansas. Also, distributed was a copy of KDA's 2009 Annual Report on file at www.ksda.gov.

A general overview of the last year in agriculture indicated another historic year in 2009. It was a wet year for almost all of Kansas which contributed to some of the largest fall crops on record. Grain storage set a record for the amount of grain stored on the ground. KDA currently has temporary permits issued for 44 million bushels which is a tremendous volume of grain throughout the State of Kansas.

In 2008, KDA had the highest average market hog price on record, while 2009 was almost the reverse. Livestock hog farms struggled due, in part, by the swine flu and all the implications that brought to the hog industry. The dairy industry also had a difficult year in 2009. Coming off the strong year of 2007, there was a increase in herd size which brought the price down but Australia brought their dairies back on line in 2009 and it contributed to a compression worldwide of dairy prices. It has been a slightly downward year for livestock but it is anticipated it will turn around.

The National Bio and Agro-Defense (N-BAF) facility had a few milestones this year. The court basically dismissed Texas' suggestion that Manhattan was in the middle of tornado alley and would be a dangerous place to put the facility. Several scientists showed there were more tornados in Texas than in Manhattan. Kansas was able to secure \$32 million more from the Senate to continue funding on N-BAF and move more of the animal health research that was being conducted in Wyoming back to Manhattan.

On the Homeland security front, on October 22, KDA hosted the Stop Animal Movement statewide in Kansas and Oklahoma. This was the result of a \$274,000 federal grant to study exactly how to stop animal movement in event of animal disease outbreak.

KDA closed the books on the interstate litigation with Colorado on the Arkansas River Compact and officially closed it but will continue monitoring.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Erik Wisner, Policy Analyst, KDA, presented the Committee with two bill introductions.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee at 3:30 p.m. on January 21, 2010, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

Erik Wisner, Policy Analyst, KDA, introduced a food safety cleanup bill for technical changes. There are still some references on the book in the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to the Secretary of Health and Environment and those need to be change to reflect the Secretary of Agriculture. This is in relation to the inspection of drugs at the grocery stores. Representative Moxley made a motion to accept the bill introduction. Representative Maloney seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The second bill is in the KDA's Division of Water Resources and is a cost saving measure. Currently the KDA is required to send out notices by certified mail, but in lieu of certified mail, KDA is requesting to use standard first class mail which would be an approximate savings of \$8,500 to \$9,000 a year. In addition, the KDA is requesting the water right holders to notify the department of any change of address within 60 days to maintain due process. Representative Brown made a motion to accept the bill introduction. Representative Moxley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.