

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Derek Schmidt at 8:30 a.m. on January 10, 2001 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
 Jill Wolters, Revisor of Statutes
 Betty Bomar, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Marc Johnson, Dean, College of Agriculture, Kansas State University
Elizabeth Boyle, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Extension Specialist,
 Kansas State University
Mitch Tuinstra, Department of Agronomy, Kansas State University
William L. Hargrove, Director, Kansas Center for Sustainable Agriculture
 & Alternative Crops (KCSAAC), Kansas State University
Jana Beckman, KCSAAC Coordinator, Kansas State University
Dan Nagengast, Kansas Rural Center

Others attending: See attached list

Upon motion by Senator Huelskamp, seconded by Senator Umbarger, the Minutes of the January 9, 2001 Meeting were unanimously approved.

Mark Johnson, Dean, College of Agriculture, Kansas State University, introduced Elizabeth Boyle, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Extension Specialist.

Doctor Boyle testified regarding the assistance the Extension office has provided small and very small state and federally inspected meat and poultry processing businesses in Kansas. (Attachment 1)

Doctor Boyle testified that as a result of the USDA final rule on Pathogen Reduction published on July 25, 1996, the Extension Office at KSU has phased in four new programs to meet the Federal requirements: 1) the establishment, development and implementation of written sanitation standard operating procedures, 2) the regular microbial testing of slaughter establishments to verify the adequacy of a plants' process controls for the prevention and removal of fecal contamination and associated bacteria, 3) the assurance that all slaughter plants and plants producing raw ground products must meet pathogen reduction performance standards for Salmonella, and 4) the assurance that all meat and poultry plants developed and implemented Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) programs. All four programs have been implemented in all large, small and very small federally and state inspected meat and poultry establishments.

Doctor Boyle testified that KSU has entered into a cooperative project with the University of Nebraska, University of Missouri and South Dakota State University to develop and provide audit and recall training and assistance to facilitate the success of maintaining HACCP programs in small and very small meat and poultry processing establishments. The KSU Extension program in the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry has assisted Kansas meat processors and entrepreneurs in developing value-added meat products and in improving the quality and safety of existing products. The Extension program is also working with the Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing, Agricultural Products Development Division in support of value-added activities. These services, programs and assistance include product development and reformulation; quality and safety evaluation and testing; shelf-life studies; nutritional labeling assistance; development of documentation programs to meet government requirements; HACCP and other food safety training; labeling assistance; plant design review; assistance in selecting and locating ingredients; packaging and equipment suppliers; and produce compliance evaluation.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Mitch Tuinstra, Department of Agronomy, KSU, testified that grain sorghum is a major feed grain crop in the United States and other areas of the world where environmental conditions, particularly low and erratic rainfall and high temperature, limit the production of other summer crops. Kansas generally ranks first in sorghum production in the U.S. and accounts for about 30% of the total U.S. production. Mr. Tuinstra stated the objectives of the breeding program is to increase the yield potential and the market value of sorghum and requires the development of high-yielding sorghum hybrids with superior stress tolerance. ([Attachment 2](#))

Kansas grain sorghum is utilized primarily for cattle and swine feed and for industrial purposes. Most commercial hybrids grown in the U.S. produce purple plant pigments which has limited use in food markets and the U.S. poultry industry, wherein, tan-plant sorghum hybrids can be utilized in the food industry and in all phases of U.S. poultry and animal production. The development of food-grade sorghum hybrids with improved lodging resistance, high yield potential and excellent grain weathering resistance promises improved marketing opportunities and a greater profit potential for the producer.

William L. Hargrove, Director, Kansas Center for Sustainable Agriculture & Alternative Crops (KCSAAC), testified relating to the activities and accomplishments of KCSAAC. KCSAAC was established at KSU in response to SB 534 enacted by the 2000 Legislature. A full-time Coordinator for the Center commenced employment January 2, 2001. A Stakeholder Listening Session has been held to get input into the programs of the center, a website has been created and an informational brochure has been designed and will soon be available for distribution. ([Attachment 3](#))

Jana Beckman, KSCAAC Coordinator, testified that the mission statement for the Center is to: "support small family-owned farms in Kansas through research, education and outreach focused on production, storage, processing, and marketing technologies that will boost small farm profitability, protect natural resources, and enhance rural communities." Ms. Beckman reviewed the KSCAAC role and its current projects.

Dan Nagengast, Kansas Rural Center, testified that the Center's objective is to find additional resources for small ranchers and farmers. The Center coordinates activities with KCSAAC, such as the feasibility of "green labeling" and an annual conference on sustainable agriculture.

Dean Johnson testified Sericea Lespedeza was first declared a county option noxious weed in 1988 and a statewide noxious weed July 1, 2000. Research commenced in the mid 1980's. ([Attachment 4](#))

Dean Johnson stated currently the education efforts consist of a combination of ongoing and special Extension program. Approximately half the Kansas counties have initiated or are developing programs. Demonstrations, tours, and meetings are conducted to draw attention to the problem and to help producers identify sericea lespedeza and to understand the impact on grazing lands. Plans for 2001 consist of continuing the development and support of county and multi-county sericea lespedeza management and control programs with presentations at meetings and tours, publications and providing other materials as needed, and to continue the coordinated programming with surrounding states.

Dean Johnson concluded his testimony regarding the Sustainable Agriculture Center by stating the involvement KSU and the Extension programs have in the various facets of Kansans lives - food safety, youth programs (4-H), juvenile justice, SRS, community development (PRIDE program), and economic development. Agriculture is a large player in the betterment of Kansas.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2001.

