

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Joann Freeborn at 3:30 p.m. on January 18, 2001 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Clay Aurand - excused
Representative Becky Hutchins - excused
Representative Bruce Larkin - excused
Representative Bill Light - excused
Representative Laura McClure - excused
Representative Dennis McKinney - excused
Representative Ray Merrick - excused
Representative Jeff Peterson - excused
Representative Ted Powers - excused
Representative Tom Sloan - excused
Representative Jonathan Wells - excused

Committee staff present: Mary Ann Graham, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Others attending:

Committee members went on an AG Information and Technology Tour on Thursday, January 18, 2001. The bus departed the Capitol building at 7:30 a.m. and returned at 5:30 p.m. The tour included breakfast at the Roger Pine Family Farm in Lawrence. Jere White, Kansas Corn Growers/Grain Sorghum Producers Associations, reviewed "Kansas for Common Sense Water Policy". Allie Devine, Moderator, Kansas Livestock Association; Roger Pine, Kansas Corn Growers Association; Alan Hess, Kansas Livestock Association; Stan Ahlerich, Kansas Farm Bureau; and Tracy Streeter, State Conservation Commission held "Stakeholders Panel Discussion". Bill Fuller, Kansas Farm Bureau reviewed "Natural Resource Protection...Who Pays?". Mike Beam, Kansas Livestock Association, reviewed "State or Local Environmental Regulations?" Robert Petersen, President, Kansas City Board of Trade, gave an overview of KCBOT. Doug Wareham, KGFA/KFCA discussed "Agricultural Biotechnology...Friend or Foe?" and "Extension of Grain Storage Sales Tax". Patty Clark, Moderator, Kansas Farm Bureau; Bill Becker, Director of Marketing for AgriMark; Tracy Thomas, Director of Marketing, U.S. Premium Beef, reviewed "Marketing Alliances and New Opportunities for the Ag Producer". Gina Bowman-Morrill, Moderator, Farmland Industries; Tracy Thomas, U.S. Premium Beef; Jerry Lehenbauer, Farmland Industries, Inc.; Scott Friedlund, Farmland Industries, Inc., reviewed "Farmland's New Product Innovations and Identity Preservation Programs". The Legislators heard from agriculture leaders about a variety of issues affecting agriculture, including a proposed new rule that would put stricter regulations on Kansas lakes and streams.

Sponsors of the tour included Kansas Association of Wheat Growers, Kansas Cooperative Council, Kansas Corn Growers Association, Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association, Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Fertilizer and Chemical Association, Kansas Grain and Feed Association, Kansas Livestock Association, Kansas Pork Association, and Farmland Industries, Inc.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 23, 2001.