

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Derek Schmidt at 8:30 a.m. on January 16, 2002 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:  
                                      Connie Fischer, Director, Agriculture Marketing Division  
                                      Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing

Others attending:     See attached list

**Upon motion by Senator Morris, seconded by Senator Umbarger, the Minutes of the January 15, 2002 meeting were unanimously approved.**

Connie Fischer, Director, Agriculture Marketing Division (Division), Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing introduced members of her staff and submitted The Final Report of Value Enhanced Marketing of Kansas Hard Winter Wheat to Mexico, (a copy is on file in the office of Legislative Research. Ms Fischer stated the Division's mission is to "help improve the economic conditions of Kansas agriculture producers while boosting the prosperity of rural communities."

Ms. Fisher stated the Division, in its fifth year of existence, utilized \$540,000 in grants to leverage \$33,702,418 in client sales and facilitated \$226,015 in export grants for four Kansas food companies through participation in the Mid-America International Agriculture Trade Council. The Division was awarded two USDA Rural Business Enterprise grants totaling \$47,500 which were used for the 2001 Value Added Conference and a feasibility study of small-scale dairy processing.

Ms. Fisher reviewed the projects in which the Division was involved: Value-Enhanced Marketing of Hard Red Winter Wheat to Kansas, Small Scale Dairy Processing Feasibility Study and the Trade Mission to Mexico. The Division provided \$511,185 in financing for nine Kansas business groups and assisted with the coordination of the Value-Added Opportunities in Agriculture Conference, and the Direct Meat Marketing Seminars. (Attachment 1)

The meeting concluded at 9:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2002.

CONTINUATION SHEET