

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Derek Schmidt at 8:30 a.m. on January 13, 2004 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Alan Conroy, Legislative Research  
Amy VanHouse, Legislative Research  
Lisa Montgomery, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Robert Myers, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Laurel Murdie - Legislative Division of Post Audit  
Mark Hassman - General Manager of Hassman Termite and Pest Control, Salina

Others attending:

See Attached List.

Laurel Murdie presented to the committee the Performance Audit Report on Food Safety Programs in Kansas (Attachment 1). She spoke as a proponent of consolidation, stating that Kansas could benefit from the combination of the programs that currently exist within both the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Kansas Department of Agriculture. The benefits she proposed were the streamlining of operations and money savings. She did not specify under which of the two agencies in question this consolidation should occur.

Laurel Murdie identified three major problems within the existing system of Food Safety Programs:

- 1) Inefficient inspection methods
- 2) Lack of coordination between the two departments (i.e., KDHE and KDA)
- 3) Inconsistent inspection requirements

Laurel Murdie followed by presenting two primary recommendations to the committee:

- 1) Combine the Food Safety Programs of the two agencies (i.e., KDHE and KDA)
- 2) Implement a risk-based approach with regard to the designation of inspection frequencies

Mark Hassman appeared before the committee on behalf of the Kansas Pest Control Association in order to request the introduction of a bill that would increase liability insurance policies for pesticide businesses (Attachment 2).

Senator Tyson moved to introduce a bill that would increase liability insurance policies for pesticide businesses as described by Mark Hassman, seconded by Senator Corbin. The motion carried.

**SB 296: Renaming the department of agriculture and transferring certain powers and duties.**

**SB 296** has been referred to the Senate Agriculture Committee

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 14, 2004.