

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Taddiken at 8:30 A.M. on February 1, 2005 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Derek Schmidt- excused

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research
Lisa Montgomery, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Jacqui Jones, Agriculture Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Professor Doug Jardine, Extension State Leader, Plant Pathology, Kansas State University
Duane Simpson, Director of Government Relations, Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Taddiken presented the minutes of January 25 and January 26 early to allow the Committee time to go over them stating he would be requesting their approval at the end of the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed Professor Doug Jardine and asked him to make his presentation before the Committee regarding the background and impact analysis on Kansas soybean producers from Asian Soybean Rust.

Dr. Jardine gave a slide presentation along with his commentary on the subject.

There are two fungal species that cause soybean rust. The more aggressive of the two species, Asian soybean rust, was first confirmed in the continental United States in November 2004. It spreads rapidly and may cause severe damage with yield losses from 10 to 80%.

Windborne spores are transported over long distances. Clouds of spores are released if infected plants are disturbed by wind. Individuals walking through rust-infected areas may transport the spores on clothing to uninfected locations.

Seedborne transmission of the disease has not been documented, although there is some concern that seed lots may contain small amounts of infected plant debris capable of spreading the pathogen.

Asian rust is capable of infecting more than 90 species of legumes. Kudzu could serve as a reservoir for the soybean rust pathogen. The broad host range of Asian soybean rust increases the likelihood of rapid spread once introduced into the United States.

The symptoms, disease development and identification of soybean rust are described in the National Pest Alert bulletin provided by Dr. Jardine (See attachment 2).

If soybean rust is suspected, methods of sample collection and submission of samples to Kansas Department of Agriculture's diagnostic laboratory also are described. Early detection is required for the most effective management of the disease. Monitoring soybean fields and adjacent areas is recommended throughout the growing season. It was recommended that Kansas State University Extension personnel be contacted for information on fungicides labeled for use on soybeans.

Dr. Jardine showed the Committee a shirt pocket-size, laminated card identifying and describing soybean rust and other similar diseases that is widely available for distribution by Kansas State University Extension Offices throughout the state. (See Attachment 2a).

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Agriculture Committee at 8:30 A.M. on February 1, 2005 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

Dr. Jardine stood for questions from the Committee.

Chairman Taddiken thanked Dr. Jardine for his presentation.

Duane Simpson made a presentation on behalf of the Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association. A copy of the testimony is attached hereto. (See Attachment 3).

A copy of Soybean Rust Reference Guide: A Special guide for Growers and Agronomists from the American Soybean Association, January 2005 is attached hereto (see Attachment 4).

Mr. Simpson stood for questions.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Simpson for his testimony.

Upon a Motion by Senator Pine and seconded by Senator Huelskamp the minutes of January 25 and January 26 were unanimously approved by the Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2005 at 8:30 a.m.