

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Johnson at 4:15 p.m. on January 23, 2006, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Doug Gatewood- excused
Representative Bill Light- excused
Representative Larry Powell- excused
Representative Ted Powers- excused

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes Office
Kay Scarlett, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Patty Clark, Director, Agriculture Products Development Division, Kansas Department of Commerce

Others attending:

See attached list.

Constantine Cotsoradis, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, Kansas Department of Agriculture, requested introduction of a committee bill to amend current Kansas egg law clarifying who is responsible for paying inspection fees; adding additional licensing requirements for non-chicken eggs. No additional fees, just license and regulation compliance. Seeing no objection, Chairman Johnson stated that this request would be introduced as a committee bill.

Duane Simpson, Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association, requested introduction of a committee bill to amend the Kansas pesticide law regarding certified private applicators' licensing requirements; repealing one of the exemptions that allows an applicator to have a private license as opposed to a commercial license. There being no objection, the Chairman stated that this request would be introduced as a committee bill.

Chairman Johnson requested introduction of a committee bill concerning buried gas and oil pipes on agriculture land. There being no objection, this request will be introduced as a committee bill.

Patty Clark, Director, Agriculture Products Development Division, Kansas Department of Commerce, presented the Division's annual report. She reviewed value-added loans for FY 2005 and FY 2006, noting that the majority of loans in Fiscal 2005 were food related, while Fiscal 2006 is dominated by ethanol and biodiesel. In discussing Business Enhancement Grants for FY 2005 and FY 2006, as well as Trade Show Assistance Grants, she said the Division would be cutting back on Trade Show Assistance Grants and putting more money into Business Enhancement Grants as there is a better return on their investment.

She reviewed the state's participation in the Mid-America International Agri-Trade Council (MIATCO), a non-profit organization composed of 12 midwestern state agricultural promotion agencies that use federal, state, and industry resources to promote the export of midwestern food and agricultural products, and discussed the increased interest in the grape and wine industry, as well as agritourism, in Kansas. (Attachment 1)

The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m. The next meeting of the House Agriculture Committee is scheduled for January 25, 2006.