

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Taddiken at 8:30 a.m. on January 10, 2007 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research
Art Griggs, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Judy Seitz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Ray Hammerlund, Director, Kansas Department of Commerce, Agriculture Marketing and Community Development

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Taddiken welcomed the full committee to the first Agriculture Committee meeting of 2007. He introduced Art Griggs, Office of Revisor of Statutes, who is new to the committee. He introduced Raney, Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research, and Judy Seitz, Committee Secretary.

Chairman Taddiken announced a Joint Senate Agriculture Committee, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and the House Agriculture and Energy and Natural Resources Committee meeting at 3:30 p.m. today in the Old Supreme Court Hearing Room to update committee members on water issues.

An Agriculture Emergency Interstate Exercise will be held on February 5 with Kansas as one of the supporting states. Another exercise will be held on March 5 and Kansas will be one of the impacted states.

Chairman Taddiken asked for bill introductions.

Senator Schmidt moved the introduction of a bill which would raise the amount of state aid provided to conservation districts from \$10,000 to \$25,000 per year. Motion seconded by Senator Huelskamp. Motion carried.

Ray Hammerlund, Director of the Kansas Department of Commerce, Agriculture Marketing and Community Development briefed the committee on the various activities of his agency (Attachment 1).

Mr. Hammerlund noted a brochure regarding the Kansas Agricultural Biosciences Entrepreneurship Forum at the Ramada in Topeka on Tuesday, January 30 from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (See Attachment 1-12, 13)

There is also a Marketing Specialty Livestock Workshop to be held at the Courtyard by Marriott in Junction City on Wednesday, January 31 (See Attachment 1-14, 15)

A map showing the ethanol and biodiesel plants in Kansas that are operating and under construction was in his handout also. (See Attachment 1-16)

Mr. Hammerlund called attention to the list of wineries in Kansas and the website information. (See Attachment 1-17)

There are five programs in the Agriculture Marketing Division:

1. Agriculture Value Added Center
2. *From the Land of Kansas* trademark program
3. MIATCO (Mid-America International Trade Council)
4. Agritourism Registration initiative
5. International /Domestic Marketing

He said their agency is statutorily charged with fostering value added agriculture. He said the definition of value added agriculture is further processing and/or alternative marketing to capture more of the end

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Agriculture at 8:30 a.m. on January 10, 2007 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

consumer dollar at the producer level.

Mr. Hammerlund said the total FY 2006 loan funding for the value added center was \$402,705 and included meat and food science and energy based projects. He noted that the biofuels industry has resulted in many inquiries.

He spoke of the Biofuels Working Group which was recently formed to assist those working on biofuels projects. The group includes members from the Kansas Department of Commerce, Kansas Securities Commission, Kansas Department of Revenue, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Water Resources and the Department of Agriculture. This group assures that people who are developing biofuels projects are following all of the steps and helps with planning.

He said the total funding for biofuels investment by the KDOC since 2001 to date is \$6,650,600.

Mr. Hammerlund reviewed the value added center funding to date and the sales generated for 2006.

The Agritourism Promotion Action has resulted in 214 agritourism operators registering in the state.

The Kansas farm wine industry is growing quickly. There are 18 licensed wineries in the state with an anticipated additional seven wineries to be added in the next two years.

Mr. Hammerlund stood for questions.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 16.