

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Taddiken at 8:30 a.m. on January 30, 2008 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Derek Schmidt- excused

Committee staff present:
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jason Thompson, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Matt Todd, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Judy Seitz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:
Carole Jordan, Division Director of Agriculture Marketing and Community Development, Kansas Department of Commerce
Sarah Larison, Domestic Marketing Specialist, Agriculture Marketing, Kansas Department of Commerce
Becki Rhoades, International Marketing Specialist, Agriculture Marketing, Kansas Department of Commerce

Others attending:
See attached list.

Erik Wisner, Policy Analyst, Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) , requested the introduction of a bill on behalf of the KDA dealing with food safety. In 2004 many of the food safety inspection functions were transferred from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to the KDA with the passage of **SB 296** and ERO 32. Currently the KDA may be prohibited from implementing any new rules and regulations and from issuing certain types of renewals. The proposed bill would address food service establishments that are in a food processing facility. It would also allow the KDA to issue a single combined license for facilities that have both food service and retail. Another component of the bill would allow the KDA to issue certificates of free sale for food processing facilities so they could sell their products to foreign markets.

Senator Huelskamp moved the introduction of the food safety bill, seconded by Senator Pine. Motion passed.

Mr. Wisner took questions from staff.

Chairman Taddiken called on Carole Jordan, Division Director of Agriculture Marketing and Community Development, Kansas Department of Commerce, to continue their report from January 23, 2008.

Ms. Jordan reported that the Office of Rural Opportunity (ORO) opened on Monday, January 28 in Sterling (Attachment 1). The ORO was created by the 2007 Kansas Legislature to be a contact point for rural communities to develop strategic plans to attract business, workers and investment.

Sarah Larison, Domestic Marketing Specialist, Agriculture Marketing, Kansas Department of Commerce, reported on activities to promote the grape and wine industry. Sales of wine increased from \$510,00 in 2001 to \$1.5 million in 2006. A printed report of the Kansas Grape and Wine Industry Advisory Council was distributed to the Committee (Attachment 2).

Ms Larison offered to take questions.

Becki Rhoades, International Marketing Specialist, Kansas Department of Commerce reviewed the FY 2008 funding for the Economic Development Initiative Fund (EDIF) and the market development fund.

Ms. Jordan answered questions from the Committee.

The meeting adjourned.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Agriculture at 8:30 a.m. on January 30, 2008 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.