

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Taddiken at 8:30 a.m. on January 19, 2011, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Tamera Lawrence, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Jason Thompson, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Heather O'Hara, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Laura Younker, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Judy Seitz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Carole Jordan, Senior Director, Rural Development Division, Kansas Department of Commerce (KDOC)

Others attending:

See attached list.

There were no bill introductions.

Carole Jordan, Senior Director, Rural Development Division, Kansas Department of Commerce (KDOC) updated the Committee on activities of the Agriculture Products Development Division for fiscal year 2010 (Attachment 1). She noted that agriculture marketing is an integral part of the rural development functions of the KDOC which is accomplished by partnering and promoting rural Kansas through technical, financial and capacity-building assistance.

Ms. Jordan said the Division has faced budget reductions during the past months.

She stated that the Agriculture Products Development staff works to increase the viability and the visibility of Kansas agriculture and agribusinesses. Staff also assists and supports sensible and sustainable development of the renewable energy industry.

Ms. Jordan reported on Kansas companies that benefited from the value-added loan program and the business enhancement grants.

She said that the KDOC is working closely with the western Kansas Rural Economic Development Alliance (wKREDA) to begin the Kansas Dairy Initiative. There are serious talks regarding two out of state dairies interested in moving to Kansas.

Ms. Jordan stated that the KDOC continues memberships in associations to promote the export of food and agricultural products from the Midwest region.

This was the fourth year that the KDOC has organized a delegation of companies and sponsored a Kansas Pavilion at the Winter Fancy Food Show.

Ms. Jordan also discussed agritourism and the Simply Kansas products trademark program. A Simply Kansas Facebook page was launched and is maintained.

Ms. Jordan took questions from the Committee.

A joint meeting with the Senate Natural Resources Committee and the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, January 25 in the Docking State Office Building, Room 783.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.