

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Taddiken at 8:30 a.m. on January 31, 2007 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Steve Morris- excused
Derek Schmidt- excused

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dean Stoskopf, Chairman, Kansas Wheat Commission
Bob Timmons, Chairman, Kansas Corn Commission
Bob Haselwood, Farmer, Member of Kansas Soybean Association

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Taddiken made a motion to introduce a bill that will require the state to begin purchasing vehicles with flexible fuel (E-85) motors when they are available in the model of vehicle that the state is shopping for and at a cost of no more than \$250.00 per vehicle. Seconded by Senator Huelskamp. Motion carried.

Chairman Taddiken moved that a bill be introduced to give newly constructed storage facilities for cellulose products used in the manufacture of ethanol the same property tax exemption as hay and grain storage facilities receives. Motion seconded by Senator Pine. Motion carried.

Dean Stoskopf, Chairman, Kansas Wheat Commission, presented the annual report for the Commission (Attachment 1). In 2006 he reported that the Kansas Wheat Commission began a cooperative agreement with the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers. Their vision of the future is "Leaders in the adoption of profitable innovations for wheat." He also said the international market for wheat continues to be extremely competitive. Mr. Stoskopf noted that whole grains were recently incorporated into the USDA's Dietary Guidelines and MyPyramid.

Mr. Stoskopf stood for questions.

Bob Timmons, Chairman, Kansas Corn Commission (KCC), presented the FY 2006 financial audit and the 2006 annual report (Attachment 2). The Committee also received a booklet from the National Corn Grower Association (NCGA) entitled "Raising American Standards" (on file in Senator Taddiken's office). He said the KCC uses this fiscal year's revenue to fund the next fiscal year's program. Use in livestock feed remains the largest market for corn. The growing ethanol production also provides another significant opportunity for corn producers.

Mr. Timmons took questions from the Committee.

Bob Haselwood, Farmer and Member of the Kansas Soybean Commission, reported on activities, FY 2007 marketing plan and budget (Attachment 3). He said the Commission collects one-half of one percent of the net value of a soybean sale of a producer collected by the first purchasers and sends one-half of the funds to the United Soybean Board (USB) for national and international projects. Their consumer education program includes promoting the acceptance of new uses for soybeans such as biodiesel and educating the public on the ease of preparing healthful foods with soy.

Mr. Haselwood answered questions from the Committee.

Chairman Taddiken noted the Committee has received copies of the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission 2007 Annual Report (Attachment 4).

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Agriculture at 8:30 a.m. on January 31, 2007 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

The chairman said that he had received a report from the Kansas Grape and Wine Industry Advisory Council and copies would be distributed to Committee members.

Staff had a question for the conferees regarding the commodity commissions being housed with the grower groups and the accounting practices and use of staff. Dusti Fritz, CEO, Kansas Association of Wheat Growers, responded to the question.

Chairman Taddiken said that discussion and action on **SB 89** -Water; Republican River conservation projects fund will be held at a meeting next week.

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 a.m.