

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Taddiken at 8:30 a.m. on March 7, 2012, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Steve Morris – excused
Senator Jeff King – excused
Senator Terry Bruce – excused

Committee staff present:

David Wiese, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Jason Thompson, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Heather O'Hara, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Abigail Boudewyns, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Judy Seitz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Mike Brzon, Chairman, Kansas Corn Commission
Clayton Short, Chairman, Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission
Bob Haselwood, Chairman, Kansas Soybean Association
Cameron Peirce, Vice-Chairman, Kansas sunflower Commission
Jay Armstrong, Secretary-Treasurer, Kansas Wheat Commission
Sharon Monk, Kansas Pet Professionals

Others attending:

See attached list.

Mike Brzon, Chairman, Kansas Corn Commission, ([Attachment 1](#)) reported that in 2011 Kansas farmers harvested 449.4 million bushels of corn, down 23 percent from 2010. This decrease was due to drought and extreme heat. He said that building markets for corn and for products made with corn continues to be a focus of the Commission. Mr. Brzon said they are entering the second year of partnering with Growth Energy, National Corn Growers and several other state corn checkoffs in the American Ethanol partnership with NASCAR. He noted the Committee also has copies of the income and expense budget vs. actual statement and the FY 12 budget in his written report. He said the corn checkoff remains at a half-cent per bushel and is fully refundable and requests are honored in a prompt and courteous manner.

Clay Short, Chairman, Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission, reported that Kansas sorghum is currently participating in the National Sorghum Checkoff Program at the rate of 0.6 cents per farm gate value. ([Attachment 2](#)). He said the Kansas Commission has received over \$2.5 million in passback dollars in the first three years of the United Sorghum Checkoff Program (USCP). The Commission has voted to hold \$400,000 in reserve in fear of a continued drought. Mr. Short said that the USCP has funded over \$1.65 million worth of research with Kansas State University. He also said that Kansas ranks 1st in the United States for sorghum production, producing over 50% of total sorghum.

Bob Haselwood, Chairman, Kansas Soybean Association, ([Attachment 3](#)) reported the soybean checkoff

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continues to provide soybean farmers with an effective, efficient, self-directed program for research and development on both the state and national level. He noted the Committee had received a copy of their latest marketing plan and the research including best management practices, crop protection and pest management. Mr. Haselwood also reported that biodiesel helps drive the demand for U.S. soybeans and plays an important role in the nation's overall energy strategy.

Cameron Peirce, Vice-chairman, Kansas Sunflower Commission, (Attachment 4) reported the Commission increased the checkoff assessment from 3 cents to 5 cents per 100 pounds of sunflowers to increase research in both weed control and improved yields through genetic research. Since 2002 one-half of the checkoff dollars collected in Kansas is sent to the National Sunflower Association (NSA) for funding of research specific to sunflower growers. He said that a total of over \$70,000 directly coming back to Kansas researchers for sunflower work from the NSA.

Jay Armstrong, Secretary-Treasurer, Kansas Wheat Commission, provided an annual report and financial statements (Attachment 5) to the Committee. The Heartland Plant Innovations (HPI) and its "Doubled Haploid" laboratory promises to reduce the time needed to develop new wheat varieties by about 50%. Mr. Armstrong said that when a new building is finished at the end of 2012, it will be the largest Double Haploid laboratory in the world. He mentioned the National Festival of Breads amateur bread-baking contest held in Wichita. He also mentioned the second annual Kansas Wheat Yield Contest with this year's top yield greater than 100 bushels per acre. Mr. Armstrong said that a delegation from Taiwan signed an agreement with Kansas officials promising to buy 62.5 million bushels of Hard Red Winter wheat in 2012-2013.

The conferees took questions from the Committee.

Discussion was begun on **SB 414 – Concerning agriculture; relating to animal health.** Sharon Munk, Kansas Pet Professionals, presented testimony in support of **SB 414** (Attachment 6). She discussed why the wording was changed in 1996 from "shall" to "may" in regard to inspection of premises. Ms. Munk stated that the Advisory Board has monitored the process in the past and they can do it again. She took questions from the Committee.

Chairman Taddiken closed the hearing on **SB 414**. Copies of proposed amendments to **SB 414** were distributed. (Attachment 7)

Angie Stallbaumer, Staff Attorney, KDA, explained the removal of Section 11 on page 4 of the bill.

Senator Abrams made a motion to adopt the proposed amendments from page 1 – 6; seconded by Senator King. Motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled from 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 13, 2012. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

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