

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Johnson at 3:30 p.m. on March 5, 2003, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
 Amy VanHouse, Legislative Research Department
 Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes Office
 Kay Scarlett, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:
 Adrian Polansky, Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture

Others attending: See attached list

Adrian Polansky, the new Secretary of Agriculture, addressed the committee and shared his vision for the Department of Agriculture. He intends to take a broad view of the varied segments of the agricultural industry and rural communities seeking a variety of beneficial opportunities and partnerships, while continuing to maintain efficient and effective regulatory programs in the department. He provided an update on recent events in Kansas agriculture, how the department has reacted to them, and what he sees as upcoming challenges. (Attachment 1)

Copies of the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Fiscal Year 2002 Annual Report were distributed. Copies can be obtained from the department.

Representative Faber requested introduction of a resolution urging the United States Department of Agriculture to implement country of origin labeling for beef. Seconded by Representative Larkin, the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2003.