

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Derek Schmidt at 8:30 a.m. on February 4, 2003 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Huelskamp, excused  
Senator Corbin, excused

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research  
Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes  
Judy Swanson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Greg Foley, Department of Agriculture  
Mike Hayden, Wildlife & Parks Department  
Tracy Streeter, Conservation Commission

Others attending: See attached guest list

Greg Foley, Acting Secretary of Kansas Department of Agriculture, presented the Committee an update on the state's efforts to help Kansas landowners with *Sericea lespedeza* infestations. (Attachment 1) Congress has not yet approved funding. A county's eligibility depends on the level of infestation. If a county does not receive the disaster declaration, other assistance can be applied for through the USDA's Environmental Quality Incentive Program. Foley also discussed the Federal disaster bill with the Committee and the efforts of Kansas in the drafting of such legislation.

Mike Hayden, Secretary of Wildlife & Parks Department, testified that they are running test plots on *Sericea lespedeza*. Kansas State University said that there was not really enough of the weed for them to run test plots. Kansas is the only State that lists *Sericea lespedeza* as a noxious weed. He said they have treatment in place for the purpose of demonstration in Cross Timber and Fall River State Parks. Burning does little or no damage to *Sericea lespedeza* because it is usually done in April. It would be more effective if the burning were done in May. Tallgrass Legacy Alliance Fund has been successful in getting annual grants, and is working on the treatment of the weed.

Tracy Streeter, Executive Director of State Conservation Commission, provided a status report on the control of *Sericea lespedeza*. (Attachment 2) Water plan dollars have not been freed up yet for control of this weed.

Senator Tyson made a motion to conceptually introduce concurrent resolutions urging Federal noxious weed cost share dollars be made available for the control of noxious weeds on CRP land in Kansas, and also to encourage the Federal entity involved to enter into terms in Kansas to avoid penalizing landowners who discover *Sericea lespedeza* on CRP lands. Senator Umbarger seconded the motion, and the motion

CONTINUATION SHEET

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passed with no opposition.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.