

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Johnson at 3:30 p.m. on January 12, 2005, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

### Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Amy VanHouse, Kansas 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.

Chairman Johnson opened the first meeting of the House Agriculture Committee of the 2005 Legislative Session by asking committee members and staff to introduce themselves. The Chairman welcomed everyone and expressed the hope that the committee would work together in an atmosphere of cooperation on agricultural issues. Committee rules and procedures, as well as rules for conferees appearing before the committee, were distributed and reviewed.

Representative Larkin requested introduction of a House Resolution urging USDA to reconsider importation of Canadian beef into the United States. Seconded by Representative Feuerborn, the motion carried.

George Teagarden, Livestock Commissioner, Kansas Animal Health Department, requested introduction of two committee bills. His first bill request concerns modifications to the premises registration and animal identification and tracking system statutes. His second request concerns changes in the Kansas pet animal act; definitions; rules and regulations; fees. Representative Freeborn moved to introduce these two requests as committee bills. Seconded by Representative Feuerborn, the motion carried.

Representative Svaty requested introduction of a House Resolution urging USDA to allow Creek Stone Farms to test all of their animals for BSE. Seconded by Representative Feuerborn, the motion carried.

Adrian Polansky, Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, addressed the committee providing an update on activities of the Kansas Department of Agriculture and the status of agriculture in Kansas. He explained that KDA is a regulatory agency charged by law to ensuring a safe food supply; regulating the responsible and judicious use of pesticides and plant nutrients; protecting the state's native and cultivated plants; ensuring the integrity of weighing and measuring devices in every aspect of commerce; and guarding the beneficial use of the state's waters. Copies of the Kansas Department of Agriculture's 2004 Annual Report were distributed. Copies are available through the agency.

Secretary Polansky reported that the Department of Agriculture assumed responsibility for many state-level food safety functions from the Department of Health and Environment on October 1, 2004. Prior to the transfer, KDA guaranteed public safety by regulating the production and sale of meat, poultry, dairy products, eggs, agricultural seeds and feeding stuffs. New responsibilities include licensing and inspecting grocery stores, restaurants in grocery stores, food processors and manufacturers, food wholesalers and warehouses, convenience stores, farmers' markets, mobile ice cream vendors, and food vending machine companies and dealers. He reported that KDA state and county food safety staff documented a 93 percent average compliance rate in the 467 food service operations in retail grocery stores, convenience stores, retail meat stores, speciality and variety shops, health food stores, and food wholesalers and warehouses randomly inspected in 2004, as required by the 2004 Legislature.

The Secretary stated that although 2004 was a very good year for agriculture in Kansas, agriculture faced a number of challenges, including the effects of BSE on the cattle industry, Asian soybean rust, and Karnal bunt. He, also, discussed Homeland Security and the importance of agriculture to the security of the state; the

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Agriculture Committee at 3:30 p.m. on January 12, 2005, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

Legislative Post Audit review of the Grain Warehouse Inspection Program; formation of a Grape and Wine Industry Advisory Council; development and promotion of an Irrigation Transition Assistance Program; and activities of the Governor's Rural Life Task Force. (Attachment1)

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2005.