

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Taddiken at 8:30 a.m. on January 17, 2006 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Derek Schmidt - excused

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research

Amy VanHouse, Kansas Legislative Research

Lisa Montgomery, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Judy Seitz, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Charles W. Rice, Department of Agronomy, Kansas State University Research and Extension

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Taddiken said there would be bill introductions at the end of the meeting.

Charles W. Rice gave a power point presentation on soil carbon sequestration in agriculture (Attachment 1). There is so much interest in carbon sequestration and climate change because of greenhouse gases (GHG). In the past 100-150 years there has been a dramatic increase in carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide gases. Mr. Rice said the Arctic sea ice loss affects Kansas by the occurrence of less frequent but more intense thunderstorms. As a result there would be more droughts and greater soil erosion. He discussed methods for dealing with carbon sequestration such as land use, soil management and crop management. Mr. Rice reported that in 2003 President Bush set a goal of an 18% reduction in CHG. He also reported that the United States Department of Agriculture is working with the Department of Energy to improve volunteer GHG reduction. Several years ago there was a volunteer formation of the Kansas Coalition for Carbon Management (KCCM). Their purpose is to inform, educate and motivate land managers to apply management practices that result in reduced atmospheric carbon levels.

Mr. Rice stood for questions.

Duane Simpson Kansas Association of Ethanol Processors, requested a bill for the creation of a seven member, Governor-appointed Kansas Ethanol Council, with a three year sunset. Senator Ostmeyer moved and Senator Huelskamp seconded the motion that the bill be introduced. Motion passed.

Chairman Taddiken introduced a bill regarding water drainage districts and who is eligible to be on the board of directors. Chairman Taddiken moved and Senator Lee seconded the motion that the bill be introduced. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 18.