

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Taddiken at 8:30 a.m. on January 18, 2011, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Steve Morris – excused
Senator Terry Bruce - excused

Committee staff present:

Tamera Lawrence, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Jason Thompson, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Heather O'Hara, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Laura Younker, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Judy Seitz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dale Rodman, Acting Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA)

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Taddiken introduced and welcomed new members of the Committee: Senator Ruth Teichman, Vice-Chair; Senator Garrett Love; Senator Jeff King and Senator Steve Abrams.

The Chairman introduced staff members: Tamera Lawrence and Jason Thompson, Office of the Revisor of Statutes; Heather O'Hara and Laura Younker, Legislative Research Department and Judy Seitz, Committee Assistant.

Chairman Taddiken welcomed members of the Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) staff and Leadership Class to the Committee. Each person in the class stated their name, town and/or county.

Dale Rodman, Acting Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA), provided information on his background. (Attachment 1). He said that Governor Brownback is committed to growing the Kansas economy. Acting Secretary Rodman stated that he is a member of Governor's Economic Development Team and have been charged with developing an economic strategy to grow the number of Kansas jobs and attract new businesses to the State. Agriculture will have a significant role in achieving the Governor's Road Map for Kansas by growing jobs in rural Kansas.

Acting Secretary Rodman said that he is impressed with the job the KDA staff is doing with reduced resources. He noted that the Committee had received copies of the Kansas Department of Agriculture 2010 Annual Report (on file in Senator Taddiken's office).

He also noted that the governor's budget brings the responsibility for animal health, conservation and agricultural marketing to the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Rodman took questions from the Committee members.

There were no bill introductions.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 19.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.