

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Powell at 3:30 p.m. on January 13, 2010, in Room 783 Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representatives Meier - Excused
Representative Navinsky - Excused

Committee staff present:

Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research
Jason Thompson, Revisor of Statutes Office
Daniel Yoza, Revisor of Statutes Office
Pat Matzek, Administrative Assistant

The Committee Rules and Information for Conferees for 2010 were distributed to all members and staff for their review (Attachments 1 and 2). They were adopted without objection.

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dr. Fred Cholick, Dean of Agriculture and Director of Kansas State University Research and Extension.

Others attending:

See attached list.

Dr. Fred Cholick, Dean of Agriculture and Director of Kansas State University Research and Extension, distributed copies of *An Informal Report to the Kansas Legislature, dated January 2010* (available on its website at www.ksre.ksu.edu). Dr. Cholick spoke on several main topics from the Report:

- **Kansas PRIDE Program** - During the 2008-2009 program year, Kansas PRIDE volunteers raised over \$900,000 and partnered with 644 other organizations to complete 1,216 community improvement projects. Volunteers invested over 85,000 hours.
- **4-H Citizenship in Action Conference** - The two-day study in government introduces youth to the legislative process. The 2009 conference delegates were asked to research and consider three current legislative issues; loss of revenue and subsequent budget crunch, energy, including the development of coal-fired plants, and proposed age changes in driver's licensing.
- **Tribune-Area Producers Endorse Research Efforts** - Residents near Tribune who grow dryland wheat, corn and sorghum, rely on agronomist Alan Schlegel at the Tribune unit of K-State's southwest Research-Extension Center for research-based information they can use to be more profitable as farmers are always searching for new practices to increase their profits.
- **New Partnership Supports Military Families** - In 2009, K-State Research and Extension opened an office on Fort Riley to help military families. The new office is staffed with agents to conduct programs in four essential life skills; family life, child development, family resource management, and nutrition and health.
- **Biofuels Research Has "Great Potential" for Kansas** - Scott Staggenborg, a K-State agronomist, is working with a team of scientists to study the potential of sorghums and perennial grasses to produce biomass. Biomass refers to the organic matters produced by the plants, which can then be converted to fuels such as ethanol, biodiesel, or methanol.
- **Budget and Districting** - The budget is \$6.5 million less for K-State Research Extension of state general funds from last year. In addition, there are 22 less faculty, 9 less agents plus 16 agent positions open, 50 less classified system personnel and \$1.4 million less of operational budget. In an effort to increase efficiency and effectiveness, 25 counties have formed nine district.

At the conclusion of the presentation, questions were asked and comments were made by members of the Committee.

Chairman Powell made a motion to introduce two bills; one relating to deer hunting permits, and one concerning prairie rattlesnakes. Representative Fund seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2010.
The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.