

Approved: 03/30/11  
Date

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Ruth Teichman at 8:30 a.m. on March 16, 2011, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Chairman Mark Taddiken – excused  
Senator Steve Morris – excused  
Senator Ralph Ostmeier - excused

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Jay Armstrong, Kansas Wheat Commission  
Jere White, Executive Director, Kansas Corn Commission  
Bob Haselwood, Chairman, Kansas Soybean Commission  
Clayton Short, Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission  
Karl Esping, Chairman, Kansas Sunflower Commission

Others attending:

See attached list.

Jay Armstrong, a wheat producer from Muscotah, gave the presentation for the Kansas Wheat Commission ([Attachment 1](#)). He said the Kansas Wheat Commission is funded by a wheat assessment which collects a penny-and-a-half per bushel of wheat at the first point of sale. Last year the Commission invested more than \$1.2 million in projects to help make the development of new wheat varieties and wheat solutions more efficient. He noted that the second “National Festival of Breads” bread baking contest will be held in Wichita in June. Mr. Armstrong said the Commission works to market Kansas wheat products both in the U.S. and to overseas buyers. He also said that Kansas farmers planted 8.8 million acres of wheat which was a 200,00 acre increase over 2009.

He offered to stand for questions.

Jere White, Executive Director, Kansas Corn Commission, presented the report, income & expense summary and the FY11 budget ([Attachment 2](#)). He distributed a chart comparing Kansas corn production and exports in 2001 and 2010 in response to a question during the hearing on **HB 2122--Agricultural ethyl alcohol producer incentive fund; extension** ([Attachment 3](#)). He reported that Kansas farmers produced 581.3 million bushels of corn in 2010 and is valued at \$3.1 billion. It was the most valuable grain crop in the state's history. Mr. White also said the Corn Commission has had a hand in building a strong ethanol industry and remains committed to a strong livestock industry. He said the Corn Commission will have a role in the sponsorship of the American Ethanol program with NASCAR and have a presence at the Kansas Speedway race in June.

Mr. White took questions from the Committee.

Bob Haselwood, Chairman, Kansas Soybean Commission (KSC), gave the presentation which included the FY2011 marketing plan and a list of research projects ([Attachment 4](#)). He said that first purchasers collect one-half of 1 percent of the net market value of the soybeans when farmers sell their crop in Kansas. One-half is sent to the United Soybean Board (USB) for national and international projects. The Commission funds soybean breeding, production and environmental research programs that helps the farmers find the most economical and efficient ways to produce soybeans. International marketing includes selling soybeans to China and working with the humanitarian efforts with the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health to provide nutrition and protein. Mr. Haselwood said the KSC helps to promote the use of biodiesel.

Mr. Haselwood stood for questions.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Agriculture Committee at 8:30 a.m. on March 16, 2011, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

The report for the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission (KGSC) was given by Clayton Short, Chairman (Attachment 5). He introduced Jill Barnhardt, the KGSC administrator hired in July 2010. Mr. Short said that Kansas sorghum is currently participating in the National Sorghum Checkoff Program. Kansas has received over \$1.4 million in funds from this program. He mentioned the benefits received from participation in the national program. He said that the KGSC has been able to put \$936,000 into research in the last 18 months. Kansas produced 54% of the total United States sorghum in 2010. Mr. Short noted that research is trying to keep grain sorghum drought tolerant but increase yields.

Mr. Short stood for questions.

Karl Esping, Chairman, Kansas Sunflower Commission (KSC), reported to the Committee (Attachment 6). He said that the KSC received a gross check-off in the amount of \$79,171.16 for FY 2010. He also said that one-half of the check-off dollars are sent to the National Sunflower Association for funding of research and promotions. New Sun Oil, a sunflower product, has been promoted as a healthy cooking oil. Mr. Esping said the KSC continues to look for opportunities to promote the sunflower, increase acres planted and provide valuable crop research.

Mr. Esping took questions from the Committee.

Vice Chair Teichman called the Committee's attention to **Sub for HB 2271—Amending provisions relating to plant pest inspection and regulation**. Chris Wilson, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture spoke about the bill. Senator Abrams made a motion to add the word “reasonable” before the word “expense” on page 3, line 32 and page 4, line 37 and add the word “reasonable” in front of “diagnostic”. Motion was seconded by Senator King. Motion carried. Senator Abrams made a motion to adopt a proposed amendment which addresses the question of who is financially responsible to treat plants in the case of infestation (Attachment 7). Senator Pyle seconded the motion. Motion carried. Senator Schmidt moved that the inspection fee on page 4, line 36 be changed from \$30 to \$80. Seconded by Senator Francisco. Motion carried. Senator Abrams made a motion that **Sub for HB 2271** be moved out favorably as amended; seconded by Senator King. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 a.m.