

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Johnson at 3:30 p.m. on January 30, 2006, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes Office
Kay Scarlett, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Justin Holstin, Executive Director, Kansas Propane Education & Research Council
Greg Noll, Director of Education, Kansas Propane Education & Research Council
Kenlon Johannes, Administrator, Kansas Soybean Commission
Bob Haselwood, member, Kansas Soybean Commission
Tom Morton, Chairman, Kansas Wheat Commission

Others attending: See attached list.

Justin Holstin, Executive Director, Kansas Propane Education & Research Council, presented the Council's annual report. KanPERC became effective September 1, 2003, at 2/10 of a cent per gallon on odorized propane destined for end consumer use in Kansas to promote and enhance propane safety in the state. He reviewed their income, expenses, and budgets for FY 2005 and FY 2006, reporting that KanPERC has received non-profit status from the Internal Revenue Service. He discussed new and existing safety programs including coloring books for schools; "scratch and sniff" safety brochures; education classes for marketers, plumbers, and firefighters; public safety press releases, for example grilling and turkey-fryer safety; fire training grants for fire fighters and first responders; and other safety information brochures. He assured the committee that, as per the legislation, there will be no advertising or promotional programs paid for by KanPERC. (Attachment 1)

Greg Noll, Director of Education, Kansas Propane Education & Research Council, reported that in 2005 KanPERC conducted 42 training classes consisting of Certified Employee Training Programs, noting that CETP classes are considered to be the standard for safety education in the propane industry. CETP is a formal structure for training, testing, and documentation to assure that workers in the propane industry have the necessary knowledge and skills to perform their work safely and effectively. He reviewed the topics for 2006 KanPERC training classes. (Attachment2)

Kenlon Johannes, Administrator, Kansas Soybean Commission, provided an update on the status of biodiesel in Kansas, including an outline with background materials consisting of 1) Biodiesel basics; 2) Biodiesel's use in Kansas; 3) Promotional materials available; 4) Current Kansas laws on biodiesel; 5) Kansas Legislature's Select Joint Committee on Energy, December, 2005, conclusions and recommendations as related to biodiesel; 6) Possible biodiesel plant locations in Kansas, currently there are none; and 7) Macroeconomic assessment and impacts of a biodiesel plant in Kansas. (Attachment 3)

Bob Haselwood, member, Kansas Soybean Commission, presented their annual report noting that unlike the Corn, Wheat and Grain Sorghum Commissions, the Kansas Soybean Commission is part of a federal checkoff program. He reported that the number one funding priority of the Soybean Commission is research, primarily production research. Details on programs and projects funded in FY 2005 are included with the Kansas Department of Agriculture's handouts. (Attachment 4)

Tom Morton, Chairman, Kansas Wheat Commission, presented their annual report to the Legislature. Annual reports of the Kansas Wheat Commission, Kansas Soybean Commission, Kansas Corn Commission, Kansas Sunflower Commission, and the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission were provided by the Kansas Department of Agriculture. (Attachment 5)

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m. The next meeting of the House Agriculture Committee is scheduled for February 1, 2006.