

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Taddiken at 8:30 A.M. on February 8, 2005 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Tim Huelskamp- excused

Committee staff present:
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research
Lisa Montgomery, Office of Revisor of Statues
Jacqui Jones, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Constantine Cotsoradis, Assistant Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA)

Others attending:
See attached list.

Chairman Taddiken opened the meeting and introduced Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Constantine Cotsoradis, who spoke in support of **SB-113 - which raises the registration fees for soil amendment products** and streamlines the reporting requirements of the Soil Amendment Act.

Mr. Cotsoradis explained to the Committee members that soil amendments are any substances intended to improve the physical, chemical or other characteristics of soil, or to improve agricultural crop production. Commercial fertilizers, agricultural liming materials, unmanipulated manures, vegetable compost or pesticides are not included.

Before a soil amendment can be sold, the company registering it for use in Kansas must prove that it works in the way the seller claims. Requiring label claims to be validated, ensures the people who buy these products they can be confident of the product's performance.

Under present reporting law, the twelve firms with products registered in Kansas are required to report tonnage twice a year, whether or not there were any sales during the reporting period. The process is time-consuming for both the firms and KDA. Mr. Cotsoradis stated that increasing the registration fee from \$60 to \$100 and eliminating the reporting requirement and tonnage fees will benefit both industry and KDA's pesticide and fertilizer program (See Attachment 1).

Mr. Cotsoradis stood for questions.

Chairman Taddiken brought to the members attention the receipt of the annual written report of the Kansas Grape and Wine Industry Advisory Council.

Upon a motion by Senator Moore and seconded by Senator Pine, the minutes of February 1 and February 2 were unanimously approved by the Committee.

The Chairman announced that the meeting of February 9 will be cancelled.

The meeting adjourned at 8.50 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2005.