

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Faber at 3:30 P.M. on February 15, 2007, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Jason Thompson, Revisor of Statutes  
Florence Deeter, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Rhonda Janke, Kansas State University  
Pete Garfinkel, Associate, Kansas State University  
Diane Endicott, Good Natured Farms  
Dan Nagengast, Director, Kansas Rural Center

Others attending:

See attached list.

It was noted that committee minutes dated February 1, 5, 6, and 7, 2007, were sent electronically, and, by consensus were approved as written on February 15, 2007.

Dr. Rhonda Janke, Kansas State University, briefed the Committee on local foods, focusing on the economic potential for expansion of fruit and vegetable production in Kansas (Attachment 1). She reviewed statistics regarding fruit and vegetable production in the Kansas River Valley and county by county.

Pete Garfinkel, Associate, Kansas State University, continued the presentation by outlining the history of crop production in the Kansas River Valley, including apple, strawberry, and grape production (Attachment 2).

Diane Endicott, Good Natured Family Farms and Farm-to-Market Coordinator for Southeast Kansas, testified regarding an alliance of 75 family farms that promote local products. She spoke of the value of direct marketing and the appeal of quality products in local markets. She provided a page of information regarding various web sites of local food marketing (Attachment 3). An informational brochure, which was distributed to the committee provided details regarding the products available at Good Natured Family Farms.

Dan Nagengast, Director, Kansas Rural Center, said the Center, in partnership with various state agencies, promotes local and regional food production (Attachment 4). He listed projects and activities that assist farmers in marketing their produce. Mr. Nagengast referenced (Attachment 5) to illustrate the USDA (U. S. Department of Agriculture) budget priorities and outlays; included are the web sites for additional information.

The Chairman requested Raney Gilliland give updated information on **HB 2294**. After explanation, Representative Grange moved to pass the bill out favorably and be placed on the Consent Calendar. Representative Moxley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2007.