

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Johnson at 3:30 p.m. on January 19, 2005, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Judy Showalter- excused

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes Office

Kay Scarlett, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Patty Clark, Director, Agriculture Products Development Division, Kansas Department of Commerce

Others attending:

See attached list.

Minutes of the January 12 meeting were distributed. Members were asked to notify the committee secretary of any corrections or additions prior to Friday, January 21, or the minutes will be considered approved as presented.

Woody Moses, Kansas Aggregate Producers' Association, requested introduction of legislation to make permanent the temporary exemption passed during the 2003 legislative session allowing Kansas aggregate producers' scales a greater tolerance for accuracy than allowed by national weights and measures standards. Representative Feuerborn moved to introduce this legislation as a committee bill. Seconded by Representative Miller, the motion carried.

Representative Feuerborn requested introduction of a committee bill limiting liability on rails to trails. Seconded by Representative Powell, the motion carried.

Patty Clark, Director, Agriculture Products Development Division, Kansas Department of Commerce, addressed the committee delivering the Annual Report of the Agriculture Products Development Division as required by statute. Various reports and brochures, available from the department, were distributed. Now in its eighth year in Commerce, she said the Agriculture Products Development Division has evolved to meet the requirements of a transitioning agency in FY 2004. She reported that this past year should be characterized as the year of the joint venture. From collaboration with the Division of Travel and Tourism to develop and implement the Kansas Agritourism Initiative, to their partnership with KSU on the Ag Innovation Center, to their work with the Kansas Department of Agriculture to foster growth in the Kansas wine industry, to their continued coordination of advancing export markets with the Trade Development Division. She, also, updated the committee on programs and activities in the Industrial Ag arena, the Agriculture Value Added Center, and the "From the Land of Kansas" Trademark Program. (Attachment 1)

She indicated that the Division will be seeking statutory changes in the Kansas Farm Winery laws, including: (1) Increasing the production cap from 50,000 gallons per winery to 250,000 gallons; (2) Allowing for sampling of wine, not just at farm wineries but in retail liquor stores as well; and (3) Increasing the number of retail outlets each farm winery is allowed from two to five.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2005.