

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Johnson at 3:30 p.m. on January 22, 2001, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Flora - absent

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:  
Connie Fischer, Director, Agriculture Products Development Division, Kansas Department of  
Commerce and Housing

Others attending: See attached list

Minutes of the January 10 meeting were distributed. Chairman Johnson asked members to notify the committee secretary of any corrections or additions prior to 5:00 p.m., January 29, or they will be considered approved as presented.

Connie Fischer, Director, Agriculture Products Development Division, Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing, addressed the committee and introduced staff that was in attendance. She highlighted the accomplishments of the Agriculture Value Added Center in providing technical and financial support for the creation and expansion of producer-based alliances and value-added businesses. Achievements in the From the Land of Kansas trademark program, International Trade program, and Domestic Marketing program were also discussed. She noted that the Division works closely with other divisions of the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing providing agricultural clients access to all the Department's programs. ([Attachment1](#))  
Copies of the Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing's Annual Report will be available later this week.

Representative Freeborn moved to introduce a committee bill to establish a Kansas AgrAbility Program. Seconded by Representative Larkin, the motion carried.

Representative Schwartz moved to introduce a committee bill to provide a tax credit for investment in new generation and value-added cooperatives. Seconded by Representative Freeborn, the motion carried.

Representative Thimesch moved to introduce a concurrent resolution urging Congress to pass legislation allowing interstate shipment of state inspected meat. Seconded by Representative Larkin, the motion carried.

Representative Thimesch moved to introduce a committee bill directing the Agriculture Products Development Division in the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing to inform and assist small meat processing plants desiring to change from state to federal inspection to allow them to market their products in interstate commerce. Seconded by Representative Ostmeyer, the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2001.