

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Johnson at 3:30 p.m. on March 25, 2002, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Faber - excused
Representative O'Brien - excused

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Dr. Bonnie Rush, Professor of Equine Internal Medicine, Kansas State University

Others attending: See attached list

Minutes of the March 11, 13, 18 and 20 meetings were distributed. Members were asked to notify the committee secretary of any corrections or additions prior to 5:00 p.m., March 26, or the minutes will be considered approved as presented.

Dr. Bonnie Rush, Professor of Equine Internal Medicine, Kansas State University, presented an overview of the West Nile virus which affects primarily horses and humans. West Nile encephalitis is an infection of the brain caused by the West Nile virus commonly found in Africa, West Asia, and the Middle East. She explained that the West Nile virus was first found in the United States in 1999 in the New York area and then moved down the Atlantic seaboard. The virus, transmitted by mosquitoes feeding on infected birds, has been found as far west as Iowa, Missouri, and Arkansas and is expected to reach Kansas this summer or fall. She discussed the transmission, prevention, symptoms, and treatment of the virus. (Attachment 1)

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m. No further meetings of the House Committee on Agriculture are scheduled for the 2002 Legislative Session.