

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Taddiken at 8:30 a.m. on January 28, 2009 in Room 446-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Senator Janis Lee- excused

Committee staff present:
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jason Thompson, Revisor of Statutes Office
Judy Seitz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:
Norm Jennings, Chairman, Kansas Grape and Wine Industry Advisory Council

Others attending:
See attached list.

Chairman Taddiken called the Committee's attention to a hand out from Legislative Post Audit showing the analysis of the State Conservation Commission expenditures for FY 2008 and a comparison of the actual expenditures and expenditures that might be made through consolidation. (Attachment 1).

A handout (Attachment 2) from George Teagarden, Livestock Commissioner, Kansas Animal Health Department, (KAHD) noting some "perceived" cross overs of the statutory responsibilities of the KAHD and the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA).

John Donley, Assistant General Counsel, Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), requested the introduction of a bill regarding the abandonment of water rights.

Senator Barnett moved the introduction of the bill regarding the abandonment of water rights; seconded by Senator Bruce. Motion carried.

Norm Jennings, Chairman, Kansas Grape and Wine Industry Advisory Council (Attachment 3) reported that the Council is a statutory body that began meeting in 2004. In the early 1900's, Kansas had around 5,000 to 6,000 acres of grapes. In 2006, Kansas Agricultural Statistics reported there were 320 acres of grapes in the state. There are currently 22 (twenty-two) licensed farm wineries and 8 (eight) farm winery outlets in the state. Kansas State University received a specialty crop block grant from the KDA to provide educational opportunities and support grape growers and winemakers throughout the state.

The KDA and Department of Commerce (DOC) co-hosted the People's Choice Wine Judging and Grape Stomp at the Kansas State Fair in September. These are popular events which promote Kansas wine.

Mr. Jennings took questions from the Committee.

Tuck Duncan, Member, Kansas Grape and Wine Industry Advisory Council, requested the introduction of three bills: a farmers market permit system administered by the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) for sales, a bill allowing additional production facilities at outlets and a bill allowing a farm winery licensee to also be eligible to hold a manufacturer's license.

Senator Bruce made a motion to introduce all three proposals as one bills regarding the grape and wine industry; seconded by Senator Barnett. Motion carried.

Senator Taddiken noted that a new handout (Attachment 4) from Legislative Post Audit on the State Conservation Commission was distributed and to disregard the previous handout.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.