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Sam Brownback, Governor

**Local Food and Farm Task Force
Thursday, October 15
9 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Kansas Department of Agriculture
1320 Research Park Drive, Manhattan, KS**

10:00 a.m.	Welcome and introductions	Chair Ron Brown
10:15 a.m.	Review/approve August 2015 minutes	
10:20 a.m.	Work session – review and discuss recommendations	
Noon	Lunch	
1:00 p.m.	Continue work session	
3:00 p.m.	Adjournment	

Attendance

Task force members: Ron Brown, Chair; David Coltrain, Representative Adam Lusker and Senator Tom Hawk (ex-officio).

KDA staff: Julie Roller and Kerry Wefald

Kansas Legislative Research Department staff: Heather O'Hara

Guests: Nancy Brown, Kathy Damron, Sarah Green and Joanna Voigt

Welcome and introductions: Chair Ron Brown called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked for introductions from the task force and audience.

Review and approve August 2015 minutes: Representative Adam Lusker moved to approve the August 2015 task force minutes. David Coltrain seconded. Motion passed.

Work session – review and discuss recommendations:

Below is a draft of recommendations discussed by task force members:

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The task force makes the following conclusions and recommendations based on the four directives listed in statute.

- **Identification of financial incentives, technical support, and training necessary to assist farmers to transition to local and specialty crop production by minimizing financial losses incurred during the transition period.**
 1. **Education**
 - Compile resources about financial incentives, technical support and training to help educate specialty crop producers and enhance local food systems.
 2. **K-State Research and Extension**
 - Continued budget support for K-State Research and Extension to fund specialty crop positions.
 3. **Position at KDA**
 - Create a position within the Kansas Department of Agriculture to focus on enhancing the specialty crop industry and local food systems in Kansas.
 4. **Training**
 - Continue to offer training for farmers' market vendors and explore opportunities to connect with specialty crop producers.

- **Identification of strategies and funding needs to make fresh and affordable locally grown foods more accessible.**
 1. **Continue task force**
 - Pre-file a bill to for the continuation of the task force to further explore opportunities to enhance local food systems in Kansas.
 2. **Support KDA funding enhancement**
 - Support KDA's funding enhancement, which will provide additional support for the specialty crop industry and local food systems.
 3. **Encourage community gardens**
 - Identify opportunities and models to support and create community gardens.
 4. **Be proactive about GAP and Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)**
 - Provide assistance and information to producers about Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) and the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA).

- **Identification of existing local food infrastructures for processing, storing and distributing food, and recommendations for potential expansion.**
 1. **Food hubs**
 - Identify existing food hubs and opportunities for expansion and creation of new food hubs.
 2. **Feasibility study**
 - Conduct a feasibility study to evaluate opportunities to enhance local food systems.
 3. **Produce auctions and mobile processing**
 - Identify opportunities and models for produce auctions and mobile processing units.
 4. **New technology (software)**
 - Utilize online platforms to communicate information and opportunities to enhance local food systems.
 5. **Economics and growth potential of specialty crops in the state**
 - Complete specialty crop survey and identify areas for growth.
 6. **Expand on existing federal specialty crop block grant, include a state cost-share**
 - Utilize completed specialty crop survey to advocate for additional USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant funds.

- **Strategies for encouragement of farmers' markets, roadside markets, and local grocery stores in unserved and underserved areas.**
 1. Eliminate sales tax on local food at farmers' markets
 2. Lower food sales tax to 5.3%

The task force discussed future meeting dates. The next meeting is a work session and will be Thursday, November 19 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The task force will continue to review and discuss recommendations.