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Good Morning

My name is Noah Goddard

I want to thank the committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources for permitting me to testify concerning HB2099

Sue and I live on 15 acres in northwest Douglas county on 40 highway about half way between Lawrence and Topeka.

We have a herd of Nubian Dairy Goats and have sold goat milk and milk products, as well as breeding stock and semen sales for 25 years.

During that time we sold raw ungraded milk off the farm pursuant to the raw milk exception to the Kansas Dairy Law.

More recently, we have built a grade A dairy and cheese plant where are licensed by the Department of Agriculture to produce, bottle, manufacture, and market, fluid goat milk, goat cheese, and yogurt.

We also market purebred breeding stock and semen Nation-wide.

I am speaking in opposition to HB2099 because it is, in my own view, an ill-conceived bill.

My first objection is that too few goat breeders were consulted during the planning phase and not many knew of the bill until recent days, about one week ago, after it had already been submitted for this committee's consideration.

It seems to me that all, or as many as is feasible, who will be impacted and required to obey and be governed by a law should be considered during the process.

1. HB 2099 seems to be totally for the benefit of and controlled by the Kansas meat Goat Association (KMGA) which, according to their web site, has approximately 70 members. According to the 2010 Membership Directory of the American Dairy Goat Association (ADGA) there are 102 adult members and 37 youth members in Kansas. While the exact number may not be known, some estimates place the number of smaller family milker and 4-H herds at four or five times the number of registered dairy herds in the state. Then there are smaller groups that make up cart goats, hair and fiber goats, pack goats and pets. KMGA is the only group represented in HB2099.

2. If this bill were to become law it would be administered entirely by a council appointed or elected by the Kansas Meat Goat Association, that's lopsided!

See page lines 5-6, HB2099:

(1) The council shall consist of seven members who shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Kansas meat goat association.

See page lines 9-11, HB2099:

Vacancies which may occur shall be filled for unexpired terms by the board of directors of the Kansas meat goat association from among the producers in the state.

Page 1, lines 26-28 says: The elections [of council members] shall be held at an open session to all goat producers at the annual meeting of the Kansas meat goat association.

3. Page 1, lines 29-30 says the secretary or his designee shall serve as ex officio nonvoting member of the board.

Page 4, line 25, Definition (5) "Secretary" means the secretary of agriculture.

We operate a Grade A goat dairy where we are licensed to bottle and sell milk, manufacture and sell cheese and yogurt. We are inspected by the dairy

division milk inspectors which are part of the department of agriculture. The Dairy Inspectors pick us to death, even to the extent of interfering with production. We don't need any additional oversight by the secretary of agriculture via HB2099.

4. page 2, lines 16, (1) Marketing development, through research, education or promotion. Page 2, line 312 also mentions, research, education, or promotion.

EDUCATION

We do a lot of education through networking on the Internet and it doesn't cost anything. So there is no need for the checkoff funding contemplated by HB2099. Members of these groups share many educational ideas and concepts on a daily ongoing basis on topics including, vaccines, medications, disbudding, feed mix, worming, hoof trimming, shelter, water, minerals, hay feeders, coccidia prevention, mastitis prevention, bottle babies, birthing problems, hay quality , and much more.

I run all of the Yahoo Internet goat discussion groups listed below and members post pictures and information to the photo sections and the files sections of these groups for future reference which serves as sort of goat management library.

I have posted 13 pictures of what internal parasites look like under the microscope to the files section of each of these groups so that the list members can have an instant reference on parasites that attack their goats.

All goat breeders can participate in self directed learning on the Internet by conducting a Google search of just about any management or medical topic concerning goats.

Local clubs and prominent breeders sponsor seminars and workshops, often free of charge. Our web site has some 37 pages much of which contains educational materials.

Kansas-Goat-Breeders@yahoogroups.com 144 members

BASICCHEESEMAKING@yahoogroups.com 1313 members

DISTRICT5NEWS@yahoogroups.com 548 members

BENEFITS-OF-RAW-GOAT-MILK@yahoogroups.com 336 members

KIDDINGTIME@yahoogroups.com 94 members

LIVING_ON_A_FEW_ACRES@yahoogroups.com 132 members

Recorded_Grade_Goats@yahoogroups.com 33 members

ManagingDairyGoats@yahoogroups.com 339 members

ArkansasDairyGoats@yahoogroups.com 75 members

LouisianaDairyGoats@yahoogroups.com 32 members

MississippiDairyGoats@yahoogroups.com 36 members

MissouriDairyGoats@yahoogroups.com 118 members

OklahomaDairyGoats@yahoogroups.com 122 members

IowaDairyGoats@yahoogroups.com 58 members

Nigerian_Dwarf_Dairy_Goats@yahoogroups.com 38 members

Nubian_Dairy_Goats@yahoogroups.com 415 members

PROMOTION

Just about every goat herd owner today has Internet access and a web site. goats are not sold by bill board or television advertising. We have a Yahoo web site that costs us \$114.00 a year and it is updated regularly as needed. We do no other advertising or promotions.

We average more than 3,000 visits a month to our web site. Web advertising and promotion is the future of promoting goats and goat products and it is here today. Individual breeders can make their own web sites because you no longer have to know code to do the job.

The check off revenue contemplated for advertising and promotion in HB2099 is simply not needed.

PROMOTION - CONTINUED

ON THE KANSAS MEAT GOAT ASSOCIATION WEB SITE, KANSAS MEAT GOAT CHECK OFF PAGE, THE PARAGRAPH TITLED,

PRODUCTION, MARKETING, PROMOTION AND EDUCATION,

THIS STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

"The Kansas Goat industry is growing. Sales of goats in Kansas have increased 483% since 2001."

That is a phenomenal increase! It is an increase that suggests we need not enact a law to take money out of the pocket of every 4-H kid in the state, through a sale barn checkoff, who has worked hard during the spring and summer to raise and sell a goat kid or two at the local auction barn to help pay for his trip to summer camp or for school clothes or for his college education.

Surely, Mr. Miller, President of the Association, (KMGA), is aware of this phenomenal sales increase because right under this paragraph on their web site it says if you have any questions about the checkoff please feel free to ask and it lists Jerry Miller's email address, jerry-miller@emypeople.net as the contact person.

GRANTS:

On page 2, line 19, of HB2099, under (b), (3) it contemplates accepting grants. In an email message from Mr. Jerry Miller, dated February 02, 2011 at 10:34 P.M. he wrote, "We can have an amendment for this bill to exclude the dairy goat breeder who sells privately. But by doing that it would bar any dairy goat producer to receive any grants that may be available. Nor could any research, promotion of milk and cheese products be promoted."

Mr. Miller is either being untruthful or he simply isn't informed. Grant opportunities are not something that is esoteric, they are available to everyone.

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) grants are available to any qualified individual.

We don't need a state law to apply for and receive grant funding for goat-related projects. Goat clubs and individuals can qualify for these grants and in some cases they make a combination of grants and low interest loans.

I have included below a copy of the SARE application information for your review that is available to all goat owners & can be downloaded from the Internet.

How to Apply for a SARE Grant

Step. 1:

Obtain a copy of a SARE call for proposals from the appropriate region and ask to be put on the regional mailing list for future calls.

Step. 2:

Determine the relevant deadline for the grant program(s) from which you seek funding.

Step. 3:

Contact potential collaborators and develop proposal ideas. Look at similar SARE funded projects on the national database and contact your regional SARE office if you would like reports that interest you.

Step. 4:

Submit your proposal, following all guidelines specified by the region, prior to the specified deadline.

How to Write a Proposal

See Also:

- Types of SARE Grants

Calls for Proposals

North Central Region SARE
Northeast Region SARE
Southern Region SARE
Western Region SARE

CHECKOFF ASSESSMENT

HB2099, Page 2, line 42-43 and page 3, lines 1-6, suggests \$.50 per head for every animal sold with the ability of an arbitrary increases each year to be paid in to the state to be used by the Kansas Goat Council. This section of the proposed bill also requires the checkoff amount to be collected by the seller on all out-of-state sales .

1. Objection - an unfair tax

I object to this on the grounds that it is taxation without representation.

2. Objection - HB2099 is over burdensome - extra records keeping

All of our breeding stock sales are out-of-state. To document sales in such a way that they can be verified will require a lot of extra records keeping to demonstrate the precise amount owed each month in checkoffs. This is an over burdensome expense that will exceed the fifty cent checkoff amount.

The documentation required will also overburden the sale barn facilities and the seller will ultimately be charged a higher service fee there as well, which is not fair.

3. OBJECTION - INTRUSIVE

I also object to having to provide this sales documentation because it will reveal to others, including the Council, our complete client list which is proprietary and confidential and one for which we have worked hard to develop over the years. Here HB2099 would work a real hardship on all goat breeders who ship breeding stock.

GOAT PRODUCT SALES

Page 2, lines 42-43, and page 3, lines 1-5 talks about sales and selling. Then page 4, line 22, -24, definition (4) "Sale or Sold" means a transaction in which goats or their products are transferred to a purchaser for full or partial consideration.

We have semen stored at a professional semen storage facility in Iowa that also ships it for us as it is sold. Based on the above sections of HB2099, are we going to have to keep records of all semen sales and pay the checkoff on each sale? Or each straw of semen sold?

We also manufacture cheese, yogurt, and bottle and sell fluid milk to various restaurants, supermarkets, specialty food stores, and individuals. Will we have to keep records on all individuals sales of products as suggested in the list of definitions? If so, this will very quickly become a records keeping nightmare.

I don't believe the Kansas Meat Goat Association or a goat council appointed by the KMGGA has any right to assess my goat dairy operation a fee so they can have money to spend for items that, in my own view, are really not needed.

My final thought is that we don't own these little critters we call goats, they belong to God, and we are only their custodians. We have a duty to be good custodians. I don't believe that HB2099 will do anything to help us to be better custodians.

Thank You,

Noah L. Goddard