

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Powell at 9:00 a.m. on January 24, 2012, in Room 783 in the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Michael Peterson (Unexcused)
Caryn Tyson (Excused)

Committee Staff Present:

Sean Ostrow, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Christopher Sevedge, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Joyce Hladky, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Pattie Stalder, Kansas Horse Council
Pam Davis, KTBA
Chris Blevins for Tom Lenz – Unwanted Horse Coalition
Jim Thomas, Kansas Trails Council & KHC
Dawn Dawson, Purina
John Johnson, Kansas Farrier's Association
Chris Mensch, private horse owner
Randy Stookey, Kansas Grain and Feed Association/ Kansas Agribusiness Retailers
Association
Leslie Kaufman, Kansas Cooperative Council

Others attending:

Chairman Powell welcomed the committee and opened the hearings on **HB2449 concerning livestock; relating to the Kansas equine education and promotion board.**

Pattie Stalder testified on **HB2449** on behalf of the Kansas Horse Council. **HB2449** allows for an assessment on equine feed sold in Kansas not to exceed \$2.00 per ton, which is 5 cents on

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each fifty pound feedbag. The cost would be approximately \$1.50 per horse, per year. It will be the responsibility of the manufacturers to aggregate and remit assessments to the KEEP board.

HB2449 allows individual consumers – the horse owner – to request a full refund of the assessment. (Attachment 1)

The KEEP board will use the assessment revenue to support research and public education for equine-related issues, promote development and uses for equine and create public awareness of the value of equine activities.

Dr. Chris Blevins testified on **HB2449** on behalf of veterinarians in favor of the bill as it would allow for grant funding for the purpose of educating owners about equine welfare and in part management and diseases. The KEEP Act would also support and add strength to universities within Kansas for equine research. (Attachment 2)

Casey West of the Kansas Paint Horse Association testified on behalf of **HB2449**. The bill would provide horse owners with more opportunities to promote their particular breed, become better educated through clinics and events, enjoy more Kansas trails via horseback and generally have more opportunities available to grow their equine businesses, network and partner with other horse owners and benefit from more equine research endeavors within the state of Kansas.

It is also the belief of the Kansas Paint Horse Association that they should be allowed the same opportunities granted to other agricultural commodities in the state which includes the ability to generate revenue through a mechanism of self funding. (Attachment 3)

Jim Thomas testified on behalf of **HB2449** for the Kansas Trails Development and Kansas Horse Council. Trail riding is one of the fastest growing segments of the recreational industry within the state, and the KEEP Act would allow more funding for expansion and improvements to our current trail system. Many of the trails are multi-use systems for walkers, bikers and horseback riders. The KEEP Act could allow equestrians to help support and maintain these recreational activities. (Attachment 4)

Dawn Dawson, Purina, testified in favor of **HB2449**. She spoke in support of the educational opportunities for children through the promotion of training on how to care for horses.

Jon Johnson, Kansas Farriers Association, testified in support of **HB2449**. Farriers along with veterinarians, have a hands-on relationship with equine owners and their animals. They are

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aware of the need to educate horse owners, particularly first-time owners, for the sake of horses and for the safety of the owners, vets and farmers that handle them.

Members of the Farriers Association are dedicated to the well-being of horses and educating the owners. Additionally, the members work with veterinarian students at KSU in the Podiatry program.

The funding of the KEEP Act will make a difference in the state. ([Attachment 5](#))

Chris Mensch, a private horse owner in Kansas testified in favor of **HB2449**. The voluntary check-off program has the opportunity to provide financial assistance to a wide variety of equine-related activities that would positively impact Kansas agriculture. The program could help fund a ramp for therapeutic riding, offset expenses for returning veterans program and assist Equine Assisted Psychotherapy. Additionally, the Act could also assist 4-H clubs, rodeo programs, scholarships for college or trade schools, FFA, assistance for national competition teams and support for rescue facilities. ([Attachment 6](#))

Ann White of the Vermillion Valley Equine Center testified on behalf of **HB2449**. The economic impact of horses is significant and it is vital to the equine industry to be allowed to promote itself in the same fashion as the beef, dairy, swine, poultry and various other agricultural industries. There is a great need for education on disease control, unwanted horses, safety issues, liabilities, recreational opportunities, employment, etc. ([Attachment 7](#))

Randy Stookey testified on behalf of Kansas Grain and Feed Association/Kansas Agribusiness Retailers as a neutral conferee on **HB2449**, the bill that establishes and funds the Kansas Equine Education and Promotion Board.

Mr. Stookey testified the associations he represents do not have a firm position on the bill; however, should the bill be amended to affect their members on the retail level, they will be opposed. Philosophically, it is their belief that the costs of implementation should be placed as closely with the beneficiary as possible. ([Attachment 8](#))

Written testimony in support of **HB2449** was submitted by:

Pam Davis, Kansas Thoroughbred Association ([Attachment 9](#))

Diana Friend, Kansas Quarter Horse Association ([Attachment 10](#))

Ernie Rodina, Land O'Lakes/Purina Feed ([Attachment 11](#))

Justin G. Janssen, DVM ([Attachment 12](#))

Paul Banzet, Vice President, Wheat State Morgan Horse Association ([Attachment 13](#))

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Tom Lenz, DVM, MS ([Attachment 14](#))

Elizabeth Davis, DVM ([Attachment 15](#))

Dr. William McGuire, Cloud County Community College ([Attachment 16](#))

Leslie Kaufman, Kansas Cooperative Council ([Attachment 17](#))

There being no further testimony on **HB2449** the hearing was closed.

Chairman Powell called for a motion to approve the minutes of January 18, 19, 20, 2012.

Representative Arpke moved for approval. Representative Hoffman seconded the motion. When called to a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.