

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Johnson at 3:30 p.m. on January 28, 2002, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Flora - absent
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:
Steve Baccus, Sunflower Producer, Minneapolis, Kansas
Mike Beam, Kansas Livestock Association
Jamie Clover Adams, Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture
Rebecca Reed, Special Assistant to the Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture
Greg Foley, Assistant Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture

Others attending: See attached list

Steve Baccus, a sunflower producer from Minneapolis, Kansas, requested introduction of a committee bill to establish a sunflower commodity commission. Representative Freeborn moved to introduce this request as a committee bill. Seconded by Representative Hutchins, the motion carried. (Attachment 1)

Mike Beam, Kansas Livestock Association, requested introduction of a committee bill to include notice of termination of pastureland tenancies in the statutes. Representative Feuerborn moved to introduce this request as a committee bill. Seconded by Representative Schwartz, the motion carried. (Attachment 2)

Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department, provided a written summary of each of the four fee fund bills proposed by the Kansas Department of Agriculture: **HB 2687**, **HB 2689**, **HB 2700** and **HB 2701**. (Attachment 3)

Jamie Clover Adams, Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, provided an overview of the four bills comprising the comprehensive fee fund package requested by the department. She discussed adjustments made by the legislature and the department to improve operations and meet increasing expectations since 1995, as well as advocacy efforts on behalf of agriculture. (Attachment 4)

Hearing on HB 2687 - Repealing regulation of livestock remedies law.

Rebecca Reed, Special Assistant to the Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, presented testimony in support of **HB 2687** to repeal the livestock remedies requirement from the Kansas Department of Agriculture's list of statutory authorities. She explained that livestock remedies are basically over-the-counter medications for animals, and that repealing the livestock remedies requirement would not leave consumers without protection because FDA must verify a product is safe as labeled before it can be marketed and distributed. The department estimates a decrease in fee revenues of approximately \$17,000. She noted that repealing the livestock remedies requirement would allow their Agricultural Commodities Assurance Program staff to spend more time checking eggs, feed, and seed. (Attachment 5)

As there were no other conferees, the Chairman closed the hearing on **HB 2687**.

Hearing on HB 2689 - Fees and inspections of dams, levees and other water obstructions.

Greg Foley, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, Kansas Department of Agriculture, presented testimony in support of **HB 2689** addressing proposed changes in current statutes that regulate flood plain fill and levees,

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dams, and channel changes or stream obstructions. He explained that the Water Structures program needed policy changes and new fees for the department to prioritize and refocus on the greatest risk components, to create an incentive to comply with current statutes, to address problems during the planning stage instead of dealing with problems that occur after the construction of an unreviewed and unpermitted structure, and to ensure that dams that potentially threaten life and/or property receive periodic safety inspections. All fees collected would be deposited in a Water Structures Fund to be created by this legislation. The department expects to generate approximately \$165,000 in fees during FY 2003. (Attachment 6)

There being no other conferees, Chairman Johnson closed the hearing on **HB 2689**.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2002.

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