

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Johnson at 3:30 p.m. on March 19, 2001, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Flora - absent

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes Office
Kay Scarlett, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Jamie Clover Adams, Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture
Tom Sim, Program Manager, Plant Protection & Weed Control, Kansas Department of Agriculture
Bill Scott, State Weed Specialist, Plant Protection & Weed Control, Kansas Department of Agriculture
George Teagarden, Livestock Commissioner, Kansas Animal Health Department

Others attending: See attached list

Hearing and action on SB 334 - Commercial feeding stuffs; seizures thereof

Chairman Johnson opened the hearing on **SB 334**. Raney Gilliland explained that **SB 334** would amend provisions of the Kansas Commercial Feeding Stuffs Law to allow the Secretary of Agriculture to issue and enforce written or printed stop sale orders for any commercial feeding stuff which contains or may contain any substance injurious to the public health. The bill would give the Secretary seizure and civil penalty authority for violations, and make violations of the law or its rules and regulations a class A, a nonperson misdemeanor.

Jamie Clover Adams, Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, appeared in support of **SB 334** and discussed the Department's stepped-up surveillance and prevention measures in light of emerging issues in Europe regarding bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). She explained that feed is the first line of defense against BSE, and the Department's efforts, through the Agricultural Commodities Assurance Program and the Kansas Commercial Feeding Stuffs Law, are meant to supplement the efforts of the federal government. She said that **SB 334** would provide the necessary enforcement tools the Department needs to effectively implement their stepped-up BSE surveillance strategy under the Kansas Commercial Feeding Stuffs Law. (Attachment 1)

The Chairman closed the hearing on **SB 334** and opened the floor for discussion. Representative Schwartz moved to recommend SB 334 be passed, and because the bill is of a noncontroversial nature, be placed on the consent calendar. Seconded by Representative Freeborn, the motion carried.

Tom Sim, Program Manager, Plant Protection & Weed Control, Kansas Department of Agriculture, reviewed the proposed changes in the Kansas Noxious Weed Law.

Bill Scott, State Weed Specialist with the Plant Protection & Weed Control Division of the Kansas Department of Agriculture, discussed major trends in the control of various noxious weeds in Kansas.

Discussion and action on HB 2468 - Enacting the land stewardship and productivity act.

Chairman Johnson called for the Subcommittee Report on **HB 2468**. Raney Gilliland explained that the Subcommittee recommendation would amend current law to require a board of county commissioners to establish a program to provide chemical materials used in the control and eradication of noxious weeds to

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landowners through chemical dealers on a discount basis. The bill, however, would allow a board of county commissioners to adopt a resolution to eliminate the program. A petition provision calling for an election to reinstate the program is also outlined in the bill. As the bill was substantially changed, the Subcommittee recommends passage of **Substitute for HB 2468**. (Attachment 2)

Representative Dahl moved to adopt the Subcommittee Report. Seconded by Representative Larkin, the motion carried. Committee discussion ensued.

Representative Freeborn moved to recommend **Substitute for HB 2468** favorable for passage as amended. The motion was seconded by Representative Hutchins. The motion carried.

George Teagarden, Livestock Commissioner, Kansas Animal Health Department, briefed the committee on the threats raised by the presence of foot and mouth disease in Great Britain and other countries around the world and the efforts by the United States Department of Agriculture to prevent foot and mouth disease in the United States. (Attachment 3)

Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes Office, explained a proposed House Concurrent Resolution urging the President, Congress, and USDA to place an immediate and total ban on importation of certain animals and their meat and meat products into the United States because of foot and mouth disease. (Attachment 4) Representative Feuerborn, seconded by Representative Thimesch, moved to introduce the resolution. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m. No further meetings of the House Committee on Agriculture are scheduled for the 2001 Legislative Session.