Approved: <u>3-3-00</u>

Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Morris at 10:00 a.m. on March 1, 2000, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except	pt: Senator Donald Biggs (E) Senator Stan Clark (E) Senator Tim Huelskamp
L	Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department Jill Wolters, Revisor of Statutes Nancy Kippes, Committee Secretary
Ken McCauley, Chairm	committee: Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture an, Kansas Corn Commission at Kansas Association of Wheet Crowers

Ken McCauley, Chairman, Kansas Corn Commission
Dean Stoskopf, President, Kansas Association of Wheat Growers
Greg Shelor, President, Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association
John Wray, Director, Kansas Soybean Association
Donnie Young, Past-President, Kansas and Southwest Kansas Corn Growers Association
Stanley Larson, Kansas Agricultural Alliance
Jere White, Executive Director, Kansas Corn Growers Association and Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association
Leslie Kaufman, Assistant Director, Public Policy Division, Kansas Farm Bureau

Others attending: (See Attached)

Hearing on:

HB 2674 - structure of grain commodity commissions

Greg Krissek, Assistant Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, testified in support of <u>HB 2674</u>, which he said would give Kansas grain producers significantly more input, control and effective use of their checkoff moneys (<u>Attachment 1</u>).

Ken McCauley, Chairman, Kansas Corn Commission, appeared in support of <u>HB 2674</u> to restructure the Kansas Grain Commodity Commissions (<u>Attachment 2</u>).

Dean Stoskopf, President, Kansas Association of Wheat Growers, testified in support of <u>HB 2674</u>, stating passage of this bill would accomplish increased flexibility, full access to check-off funds, and increased accountability to grain producers (<u>Attachment 3</u>).

Greg Shelor, President, Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association, provided testimony in support of **HB 2674** saying this proposal is good for the state and for the growers (<u>Attachment 4</u>). **HB 2674** will save the state nine full time employees, the commissions will actually be more accountable to the Kansas Legislature and to the growers, and it will provide for grower-elected commissions.

John Wray, Director, Kansas Soybean Association, testified in support of <u>**HB 2674**</u> saying that growers would have a better opportunity to have direct representation with their investments on the soybean checkoff and would allow interest from collected funds to be used to finance additional research, education, market development, and promotional opportunities (<u>Attachment 5</u>).

Donnie Young, Past-President, Kansas and Southwest Kansas Corn Growers Association, appeared in support of <u>HB 2674</u> stating that with today's farm economy it is important to allow check-off

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, Room 423-S of the Capitol, 10:00 a.m., on March 1, 2000.

commissions to operate efficiently, to let growers have more input as to what programs are supported and who will represent them, and to spend checkoff funds and interest on those funds to make farming more profitable for farmers (<u>Attachment 6</u>).

Brett Myers on behalf of the Kansas Agricultural Alliance testified in support of HB 2674 (Attachment 7).

Jere White, Executive Director, Kansas Corn Growers Association and Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association, provided an overview of <u>HB 2674</u> in support of passage of <u>HB 2674</u> (<u>Attachment 8</u>).

Leslie Kaufman, Assistant Director, Public Policy Division, Kansas Farm Bureau, testified in support of <u>**HB 2674**</u> advising that some of the important provisions that would benefit producers were: 1) the interest earned on commodity commission funds now held by the State would be retained by the respective commissions and be available for their intended market development purpose; 2) members of the commodity commissions would be elected by growers rather than being political appointees; 3) the State would no longer retain \$100,000 of producer check-off moneys for administering the funds; and 4) check-off funds would be focused directly and on a timely basis to producer-managed projects and programs, rather than requiring approval of the Legislature which often requires several months (<u>Attachment 9</u>).

The hearing on **<u>HB 2674</u>** was continued to March 2, 2000.

Senator Umbarger made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2000 meeting as submitted. Senator Stephens seconded. The motion carried.

The next meeting will be March 2, 2000.