

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sharon Schwartz at 3:30pm on Monday, February 02, 2015, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Joanna Wochner, Legislative Research Department
Shirley Jepson, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
Natalie Scott, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Lane Letourneau, Department of Agriculture
Kent Askren, Kansas Farm Bureau
Mike Beam, Kansas Livestock Association

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Hearing on: HB2069 — Allowing carryover and a change application for place of use for multi-year flex accounts.

Natalie Scott, Revisor, provided an explanation of **HB 2069**, explaining that the bill amends the provisions relating to term permits to appropriate water and multi-year flex accounts ([Attachment 1](#)).

Lane Letourneau, Department of Agriculture, appeared before the Committee in support of **HB 2069** ([Attachment 2](#)). Mr. Letourneau explained that **HB 2069** would provide two additions to the Multi-Year Flex Account (MYFA) program. One proposed change is to allow a MYFA to make a small adjustment to their place of use. Currently, the statute excludes the opportunity to change a term permit. This modification would add a management opportunity for a producer that wants to upgrade to a more water-efficient irrigation system. The second proposed change is removing another "use it or lose it" barrier.

Mr. Letourneau feels this is a better management strategy of our water sources; noting that the Department of Agriculture remains committed to providing better management tools so Kansans can use our resources more wisely.

Mr. Letourneau responded to questions from the Committee.

Kent Askren, Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB), appeared before the Committee in support of **HB 2069** ([Attachment 3](#)). Mr. Askren stated that members of KFB members support both the rollover and change in place of use provisions proposed in **HB 2069**.

Mr. Askren responded to questions from the Committee.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources at 3:30pm on Monday, February 02, 2015, 346-S of the Capitol.

Mike Beam, Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), appeared before the Committee in support of **HB 2069** ([Attachment 4](#)). Mr. Beam noted that **HB 2069** is an improvement to the multi-year flex account law that provides conservation benefits and added flexibility.

Mr. Beam responded to questions from the Committee.

Written testimony in support of **HB 2069** was received from:
Leslie Kaufman, Kansas Cooperative Council ([Attachment 5](#)).
Greg Krissek, Kansas Corn Growers Association ([Attachment 6](#)).

The hearing on **HB 2069** was closed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for February 3, 2015.