

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sue Boldra at 3:30pm on Monday, February 01, 2016, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Joe Seiwert – Excused

Representative Sharon Schwartz – Excused

Committee staff present:

Joanna Dolan, Legislative Research Department

Natalie Scott, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department

Shirley Jepson, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Chad Bontrager, Deputy Secretary, Department of Agriculture

Ron Seeber, Senior Vice-President, Government Affairs

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Bill introductions

Representative Troy Waymaster requested the introduction of legislation pertaining to equine dentistry.

Representative Lusker moved to introduce the legislation concerning equine dentistry. The motion was seconded by Representative Thimesch. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Hearing on: HB2490 — Allowing the secretary of the Kansas department of agriculture to contain chemical toxins and other plant pests for the protection of the public health.

Natalie Scott, Revisor, appeared before the Committee to provide an explanation of **HB2490 (Attachment 1).**

Ms. Scott stated that **HB2490** amends current statute to include a definition of the word "toxicant" and include toxicants in the definition of "plant pests". In addition, the bill allows the secretary of agriculture to contain the spread of plant pests and quarantine the state or a portion of the state to contain a plant pest for the protection of public health.

Chad Bontrager, Deputy Secretary, Department of Agriculture, appeared before the Committee in support **HB2490 (Attachment 2)**. Mr. Bontrager stated that **HB2490** would update the Kansas Plant Pest and Agricultural Commodity Certification Act; provide the Secretary of Agriculture with authority to quarantine and treat or destroy infested plants or plant products to prevent the movement of pests or diseases within Kansas. The bill would also update the Act to include information on unsafe levels of

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agricultural chemicals. In addition, the bill would clarify the Secretary's quarantine authority.

Responding to questions from the Committee, Mr. Bontrager indicated that the legislation will have no impact on animals. Additionally, Mr. Bontrager stated that the Department of Agriculture currently has the authority to act; however, the bill would clarify the Department's authority.

Ron Seeber, Senior Vice President, Government Affairs, representing Kansas Grain and Feed Association and Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association in conjunction with Leslie Kaufman, Kansas Cooperative Council, appeared before the Committee in support of **HB2490** ([Attachment 3](#)). Mr. Seeber stated that the changes proposed in **HB2490** are important to the industry. The bill would allow the Secretary of Agriculture to take actions to prevent contaminated crops from reaching grain storage facilities and potentially contaminate thousands of bushels of grain. Mr. Seeber indicated that **HB2490** provides additional tools and protections to help protect the public from contaminated grain reaching grain elevators and the public.

There were no conferees appearing in a neutral or opposed position.

The hearing on **HB2490** was closed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for February 2, 2016.