

Approved March 27, 1992
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

The meeting was called to order by Representative Lee Hamm at
Chairperson

9:10 a.m./~~p.m.~~ on Tuesday, March 24, 1992 in room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Wempe, Representative Wisdom,
Representative Doug Lawrence, Representative Heinemann,
who were excused.

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research
Jill Wolters, Revisor of Statutes Office
Pat Brunton, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Larry Woodson, Director
Division of Inspections
Kansas State Board of Agriculture

Chris Wilson
Director of Public Affairs
Kansas Grain and Feed Association

A motion was made by Representative Gatlin to approve committee minutes of March 16, 17, 18 and 19, 1992. Representative Flower seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Hamm opened hearings on **SB 681** - concerning fertilizer; relating to the analysis thereof.

Larry Woodson, Kansas State Board of Agriculture, testified in favor of **SB 681**. Mr. Woodson said the purpose of **SB 681** as amended is to amend the existing language and permit the use of processed tankage in the manufacturing of specialty fertilizer. Specialty fertilizer is a fertilizer distributed primarily for non-farm use such as home gardens, lawns, shrubbery, flowers, golf courses, municipal parks, cemeteries, greenhouses and nurseries. Specialty fertilizers utilize slow release nitrogenous materials. (Attachment 1).

A question and answer period followed Mr. Woodson's testimony.

Chris Wilson, Kansas Grain and Feed Association, appeared before the committee in support of **SB 681**. Ms. Wilson stated that Kansas Grain and Feed Association requested **SB 681** to amend the Kansas Fertilizer Law to permit hydrolized feathermeal to be used in products sold in Kansas. This legislation would remove the prohibition in current law which requires the application for registration of a product include a guaranteed analysis which guarantees that no horn, hoof, hair, feathers or other similarly inert nitrogenous matter is contained in the product. Passage of this legislation will allow manufacturers of fertilizer products which contain hydrolized feathermeal to sell their products in Kansas, which they currently are able to do in all other states and internationally. (Attachment 2).

Hearings were closed on **SB 681**.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m. The next meeting of the House Agriculture Committee will be held on Wednesday, March 25, 1992, in room 423-S, State Capitol.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

SENATE BILL 681

March 24, 1992

Mr. Chairman, Members of the House Committee on Agriculture. My name is Larry D. Woodson and I am the Director of the Division of Inspections for the Kansas State Board of Agriculture and I am here to testify on Senate Bill 681 as amended.

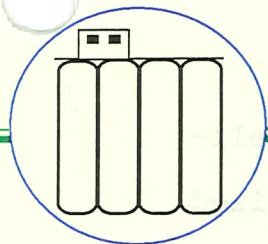
The purpose of Senate Bill 681 as amended is to amend the existing language and permit the use of processed tankage in the manufacturing of specialty fertilizer. Specialty fertilizer is a fertilizer distributed primarily for non-farm use such as home gardens, lawns, shrubbery, flowers, golf courses, municipal parks, cemeteries, greenhouses and nurseries. Specialty fertilizers utilize slow release nitrogenous materials.

One of the proposed ingredients in processed tankage is hydrolyzed feathermeal. The Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO) reviewed this subject and concluded that hydrolyzed feathermeal is a proper ingredient for use in slow release fertilizers. Currently, Kansas law prohibits the use of feathers in fertilizers. Allowing the use of hydrolyzed feathers in slow release or specialty fertilizers addresses a need for a fertilizer which won't burn lawns, golf courses, etc. The additional regulation authority allows flexibility in handling label requirements in this new product area.

I believe that these amendments permit the use of slow release nitrogenous fertilizers used primarily for lawn and garden purposes while maintaining consumer protection, thus we support the bill.

This concludes my testimony. Either I or our staff will attempt to answer any questions the committee may have.

HS. AG.
3-24-92
ATTACHMENT 1



KANSAS GRAIN AND FEED ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF THE KANSAS GRAIN AND FEED ASSOCIATION

TO THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

REPRESENTATIVE LEE HAMM, CHAIRMAN

REGARDING S.B. 681

MARCH 24, 1992

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, I am Chris Wilson, Director of Public Affairs for the Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA). KGFA is the trade and professional organization of the Kansas grain and feed industry, representing over 96% of the licensed storage capacity in the state.

KGFA requested S.B. 681, to amend the Kansas Fertilizer Law to permit hydrolized feathermeal to be used in products sold in Kansas. This legislation would remove the prohibition in current law which requires than application for registration of a product include a guaranteed analysis which guarantees that no horn, hoof, hair, feathers or other similarly inert nitrogenous matter is contained in the product. This provision is unique to Kansas law and apparently dates back to 1907 when there was a problem with feathers being applied to fields. While feathers are a good source of nitrogen, obviously the nitrogen in whole feathers is not readily available to plants, and the feathers were at the time causing an environmental problem.

Today's hydrolized feathermeal is a good and well-accepted source of nitrogen, just as it is a recognized source of protein, allowed in feed. Passage of S.B. 681 will allow manufacturers of fertilizer products which contain hydrolized feathermeal to sell their products in Kansas, which they currently are able to do in all other states and internationally. These products are largely used on golf courses and lawns and are not used in agricultural production.

In the Senate, the Board of Agriculture proposed amendments which will allow the agency to adopt additional rules and regulations for the registration and lableing of fertilizer, to insure consumer protection in lieu of the subsection being removed from the law. The agency amendments also add the definition of specialy fertilizers, such as the non-agricultural ones containing hydrolized feathermeal. We fully support these amendments.

We ask that the Committee report S.B. 681 favorable for passage and thank you for your consideration.

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