

Approved March 27, 1992  
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

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

9:13 a.m. ~~p.m.~~ on Wednesday, March 25, 1992 in room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Rock, Representative Wempe, Representative Wisdom and Representative D. Lawrence, who were excused.

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

Conferees appearing before the committee: Robert Mertz, President  
Kansas Lamb Feeders  
  
Raymond Kuhlman, Jr., President  
Kansas Sheep Association  
  
Joe Rickabaugh  
Executive Secretary  
Purebred Division  
Kansas Livestock Association

Chairman Hamm opened hearings on **SB 605** - creating Kansas sheep commission.

Robert Mertz, Kansas Lamb Feeders, testified before the committee in support of **SB 605**. He stated the Kansas Lamb Feeders feel this bill, as introduced, represents the best interests of the entire sheep industry in Kansas. He concluded the Kansas sheep industry needs a checkoff program for consumer research, education and promotion. (Attachment 1).

Raymond Kuhlman, Jr., Kansas Sheep Association, appeared before the committee in support of **SB 605**. He stated this check off will enable producers to promote their products; both lamb and wool. (Attachment 2).

Joe Rickabaugh, Kansas Livestock Association, testified in support of **SB 605**. The KLA membership appreciates the fact that this program is producer-funded as well as overseen by a producer commission. The creation of a Kansas Sheep Commission should lead to a larger sheep industry for the state. (Attachment 3).

A question and answer period followed each testimony.

Hearings were closed on **SB 605**.

Jill Wolters, Revisor's Office, suggested the committee make some technical clean-up amendments.

Representative Rezac made a motion to amend **SB 605** as suggested by Revisor. Representative Reinhardt seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion was held.

Representative Bryant moved to pass favorably **SB 605** as amended. Representative Gatlin seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 a.m. The next meeting of the House Agriculture Committee will be held on Thursday, March 26, 1992, at 9:00 a.m. in room 423-S, State Capitol.



Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee,

My name is Robert Mertz. My address is 7280 Zeandale Road, Manhattan. I am currently a district director for the Kansas Sheep Association and the President of the Kansas Lamb Feeders. I am a partner in a lamb feeding operation, located east of Manhattan along the Riley-Wabaunsee county line. My father is the third generation and my brother and I represent the fourth generation of the Mertz family to feed lambs. Our family has been in the feeder lamb business since 1935.

I am here today to represent the Kansas Lamb Feeders and my family's support for Senate Bill 605 that is being considered today. We feel this Bill, as introduced, represents the best interests of the entire sheep industry in Kansas. We feel that Senate Bill 505 is basically a positive Bill for the sheep industry in that

- a) it is a self-help program funded and controlled by sheep producers, similar to legislated beef and pork checkoff programs already in existence in Kansas;
- b) it is not asking for any government funding;
- c) sheep producers will have an opportunity to select other sheep producers and feeders to sit on the commission; and,
- d) sheep producers need an opportunity to promote their products, both lamb and wool, to consumers. This Bill will provide that opportunity.

In conclusion: The Kansas sheep industry needs a checkoff program. It is needed for consumer research, education and promotion. We believe this bill gives us the opportunity to help ourselves.

THANK YOU.

HS. AG.  
3-25-92  
ATTACHMENT 1

March, 1992

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Raymond Kuhlman, Jr. My address is RR1, Belleville, Kansas. I am currently President of the Kansas Sheep Association. Sheep have been a part of our farming operation since the early '50s.

I am here today to represent the Kansas Sheep Association and Sheep Producers across the state.

The sheep industry has went through a recession of sort and now is starting to recover with better prices. Because of these depressed prices, sheep producers are very positive about a sheep and wool check off. They realize that these check off dollars will be used for promotion, research and education. Producers are willing to work to get more consumer acceptance of product and salesmanship is needed to get product in the meat case. Every dollar spent in product promotion returns four times to the producer.

We feel that we have addressed problems that the previous bill may have had. We are not asking for any start up funds as in the previous bill and have changed committees to a producer elected council that will be elected from all segments of the sheep industry in Kansas.

This check off will enable producers to promote their products; both lamb and wool.

Again, I ask for your support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Raymond Kuhlman, Jr.  
President of Kansas Sheep Association

HS. AG.  
3-25-92  
ATTACHMENT 2



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Owns and Publishes The Kansas STOCKMAN magazine and KLA News & Market Report newsletter.

**STATEMENT OF THE  
KANSAS LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION  
TO THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
REPRESENTATIVE LEE HAMM, CHAIRMAN  
WITH RESPECT TO  
SENATE BILL 605  
PRESENTED BY  
JOE RICKABAUGH, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
PUREBRED DIVISION  
MARCH 25, 1992**

*Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, for the opportunity to present our views on Senate Bill 605, the creation of the Kansas Sheep Commission.*

*Our members support the concept of the Kansas sheep industry creating a promotional arm to further sheep enterprises in this state as well as nationwide. The KLA membership appreciates the fact that this program is producer-funded as well as overseen by a producer commission. This same type of format has served both the cattle and swine industries well in this state and across the nation.*

*Presently, KLA has policy supporting a statewide sheep checkoff for promotional purposes as well as two other resolutions supporting a national sheep checkoff and the promotion of lamb and wool.*

*The creation of a Kansas Sheep Commission should lead to a larger sheep industry for the state. With a larger sheep industry in this state, more benefits could be realized by the Kansas grain and hay industries.*

*Thank you for allowing me to share our views, and I will be glad to answer any questions the committee might have.*

*HS. AG.  
3-25-92  
ATTACHMENT 3*