

Approved February 26, 1992
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

The meeting was called to order by Sen. Don Montgomery at
Chairperson

10:00 a.m./~~p.m.~~ on February 20, 1992 in room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senators Brady, Frahm and Harder

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research
Jill Wolters, Revisor of Statutes
Shirley Higgins, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Robert Mertz, Kansas Sheep Commission and Kansas Lamb Feeders
Raymond Kuhlman, Kansas Sheep Association
Mike Beam, Kansas Livestock Association

SB 605 - Creating the Kansas Sheep Commission; relating to the powers and duties thereof.

Robert Mertz, Kansas Sheep Association and Kansas Lamb Feeders, testified in support of the bill if modified. (Attachment 1).

The chairman asked Mr. Mertz if the suggested amendments include items wanted by the Governor last year when she vetoed a similar bill, and Mr. Mertz answered that it does meet with her requirements. Sen. Francisco inquired if the way the commissioner is appointed is the way the Governor wanted it last year. Mr. Mertz said he would refer that question to another conferee.

Raymond Kuhlman, Kansas Sheep Association, testified in support of the bill with some needed changes. (Attachment 2). Mr. Kuhlman said he will have a consensus from all the industry before returning to the committee with suggested amendments. The chairman explained that the amendments must be presented to the committee no later than the week of March 2 in order to meet the deadline for consideration of bills by the House of origin.

Mike Beam, Kansas Livestock Association, stood to inform the committee that Joe Rickabaugh, Kansas Livestock Association, was unable to testify today but had submitted his written testimony in support. (Attachment 3). Mr. Beam said the KLA is relying on the Sheep Association for specific input on the bill.

Sen. Francisco questioned Mr. Mertz with regard to the refund mechanism found on page three of the bill.

There being no further persons wishing to testify on SB 605, the hearing was concluded. Further hearing will be held when the proposed amendments are ready for the committee's consideration.

The minutes of February 19 were approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

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 concern regarding Senate Bill 605. We feel this Bill, as introduced, only partially represents the best interests of the entire sheep industry in Kansas.

We feel the industry should review and reconsider those sections that pertain to

- a) board make-up and selection;
- b) assessment on all sheep and lambs sold; and,
- c) how funds will be collected and expended.

We also feel that Senate Bill 605 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.

*Senate Agriculture
2-20-92
Attachment 1*

In conclusion: The Kansas sheep industry needs a checkoff program. It is needed for consumer research, education and promotion. But it must be an equitable program with a board that represents both the lamb producer and the lamb feeder. There should be representation from all segments of the industry.

The collection monies must also come from each segment of the industry. I believe this Bill can be modified in a satisfactory way. I apologize to the Committee in that we do not have a formal recommendation today, but ask the Committee to consider the changes that will be forthcoming by the Kansas Sheep Association and Kansas Lamb Feeders.

Does anyone have any questions?

Thank you.

I would like to ask your support of senate bill 605.

I am Raymond Kuhnman Jr. from the Kansas Sheep Assn, we are back asking for your help in passing a sheep + wool check off.

We feel we have some changes that will make the bill more acceptable. That being administrative cost, and a council that would be producer elected.

The sheep industry is going through a recession of sort, with low wool prices + depressed lamb prices. Even with these problems sheep producers are upbeat about a check off.

They realize that more needs to be done in consumer acceptance of product. + saleships to get product to the consumer every dollar spent in product promotion returns 4 times to the producer.

Check off money will be spent to promote lamb + wool sales, and sheep research in Kansas

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2-20-92
Attachment 2



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**STATEMENT OF THE
KANSAS LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
WITH RESPECT TO
SENATE BILL 605
PRESENTED BY
JOE RICKABAUGH, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
PUREBRED DIVISION
FEBRUARY 20, 1992**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, for the opportunity to submit written testimony 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 again for allowing me to submit written testimony.

*Senate Agriculture
2-20-92
Attachment 3*