

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Joann Flower at 9:00 a.m. on February 8, 1995, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Sloan - Excused

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department  
Jill Wolters, Revisor of Statutes  
Kay Scarlett, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:  
Representative Joseph Kejr  
Dr. Ronald J. Marler, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, Kansas State University

Others attending: See attached list

Chairperson Flower welcomed everyone and called the committee's attention to the minutes of February 2. If there are additions or corrections to notify the secretary by 5:00 today or they will stand approved as presented. She then called for introduction of bills.

Representative Joseph Kejr requested that the committee introduce his bill concerning the appointment of the secretary of agriculture. He proposed that the governor appoint the secretary of agriculture with Senate confirmation. An advisory board of agriculture would be appointed by farm organizations as in current statutes. He felt this proposal would help keep the farm groups involved in the board of agriculture. Representative Powers moved to introduce this legislation as a committee bill. It was seconded by Representative Lloyd. Motion carried.

Dr. Ronald J. Marler, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, Kansas State University, updated the committee on the College of Veterinary Medicine stating that they focus their resources in three areas--teaching, service, and research. In addition to being an excellent teaching college, their animal hospital serves the north central states of the United States. Their diagnostic laboratory is important to the economy of Kansas as early detection of disease is extremely important. It is estimated that disease costs the agricultural industry in Kansas \$200 million a year. The College of Veterinary Medicine raised extra-mill funding of \$2 million last year for research through industrial sources and the federal government. He feels they must do much better if they are to be a major player in the area of research in the United States. In the seven months he has been at KSU, they have refocused their resources in the area of research. One area that will have a major impact on the state of Kansas is in the area of animal industry.

They are planning to focus their research around The Center of Excellence for Animal Health and Management. It is currently before the Board of Regents, he thinks it will be approved. He hopes that it will be a cooperative venture between KSU and industry. Future funding must come from industry as less will be coming from the federal government. The Center of Excellence for Animal Health and Management will conduct research that addresses food safety concerns. It is estimated that there are up to 81 million cases of food borne illnesses in this country a year. That is a \$30 billion impact on the economy through health care costs and absenteeism. There will be a strong effort in the area of preharvest food safety. He covered preharvest food safety programs they plan to address, as well as research imperatives. (Attachment 1)

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 9, 1995.

# HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: February 8, 1995

NAME	REPRESENTING
Bill Juelz	Kansas Farm Bureau
Marty Vanier	KS Ag Alliance
Mike Jensen	KS Pork Producers
Kenneth M. Wilke	Dept of Agriculture
Ken Haggins	KUMC Assoc Prof
Ron Markler	KSU College of Vet Med



## Office of the Dean

College of Veterinary Medicine  
Veterinary Medical Center  
Trotter Hall  
Manhattan, Kansas 66506-5601  
913-532-5660

### Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine

## THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR ANIMAL HEALTH AND MANAGEMENT

### Priorities for the Center of Excellence for Animal Health and Management

The faculty at the Center of Excellence for Animal Health and Management are committed to conducting research that addresses food safety concerns. Veterinarians are the only health professionals involved at all stages of food production and preparation and our faculty will participate in multidisciplinary teams that conduct research designed to improve investigation procedures and prevent food borne illness.

#### Preharvest food safety programs should address:

1. Diagnosis - better diagnostic tests.
2. Epidemiology - development of good surveillance systems.
3. Characterization of the causative agents - identify micro-organisms with unusual or unique properties.
4. Ecology - locate and eliminate causative organisms from their reservoirs.
5. Intervention - vaccination, sanitary practices, altered management practices, etc.

#### Research Imperatives:

1. Improved tests to easily detect causative agents for physicians and veterinarians.
2. Acquire more basic information on the ecology and pathogenic characteristics of causative micro-organisms.
3. Develop interventional strategies for causative agents.

*House Agriculture  
Attachment 1  
2-8-95*