

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Joann Flower at 9:00 a.m. on March 8, 1996, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Allie Devine, Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture

Others attending: See attached list

Continuation of hearing on Sub SB 705 - Amendments to statutes regarding weights and measures devices.

Allie Devine, Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, was present to answer committee questions concerning **Sub SB 705**. She said this bill will put the tools in place to better monitor and enforce the Department's weights and measures program. Through increased, uniform data collection, she said the Department will be looking for trends to identify those that are consistently abusing the law. She thought noncompliance figures would probably go up as better, more complete data is collected.

The Secretary said there will be fifteen state employees in the weights and measures program. They will also be contracting for six full-time fuel inspectors. She said the current \$675,000 budget was sufficient to pay for the scales portion of the program, but does not provide the money for equipment upgrades. She reported that the Governor's Budget Amendment includes over \$200,000 for equipment and personnel upgrades in the weights and measures program. (Attachment 1)

Committee discussion ensued concerning companies that self-inspect their scales. The Secretary responded that their inspectors will have to be licensed the same as all other service companies. If problems are found with these scales or scanners, the Department through rules and regulations intends to issue double fines. She mentioned Dillons, Amoco, and IBP as companies that currently self-inspect their measuring devices. The state does not have the money or manpower to do these extra annual inspections. She thought it would take at least a year to get everyone into their computer system and make any accurate estimates of how the new weights and measures program is working. She said the advice the Department has received from the experts and weights and measures departments in other states is to start with a small group of programs, then add as necessary.

The Secretary reported that they have not formulated procedures on a numbering system for seals to be used after a measuring device has been inspected and verified to be accurate. The committee was concerned whether violators names and noncompliance information was public information and would it be published.

There was still some committee concern regarding scales found out of compliance, but left in operation until repairs could be made. Page 14, line 9 of **Sub SB 705** indicates this could be as long as 30 days. Should it be posted that the scale is out of tolerance and adjustments made accordingly to protect both the consumer and owner. The Secretary said they are still working on this problem, but she would hope that 48 hours would be the maximum time allowed for repairs. She said if a scale were found seriously out of tolerance, it would be red tagged and shut down immediately.

Chairperson Flower closed the hearing on **Sub SB 705**.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, Room 423-S Statehouse, at 9:00 a.m. on March 8, 1996.

Discussion and possible final action on HR 6008 - A resolution memorializing Congress to investigate the meat packing industry for actions that limit the availability of a competitive market for livestock producers.

Following limited discussion, Representative Freeborn moved to pass HR 6008 favorably. The motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 1996.

**Kansas Department of Agriculture
Governor's Budget Amendment**

	FY 1996	FY 1997
Agency Health and Safety Issues		
Meat and Poultry Upgrades	3,000	6,000
Water Structures Engineer	0	33,000
Water Rights Attorney		40,000
Subtotal Agency	3,000	79,000
Weights and Measures Program		
Reclass PMEP Inspectors	5,000	10,000
Upgrade Program Administrator	6,500	25,000
Equip KDOT Trucks	15,000	0
Computer System Upgrade	18,000	0
Computer Systems - Statistics	5,500	0
Large Scale Carts	0	10,000
Reclass Data Entry Clerk	0	20,000
Upgrade Metrology Laboratory	0	10,000
Computer Programmer	0	50,000
Subtotal Weights and Measures	50,000	125,000
Total GBA	53,000	204,000

21-Feb-96

*House Agriculture
Attachment 1
3-8-96*