

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Joann Flower at 9:00 a.m. on January 28, 1997, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Compton - absent
Representative Henry - excused
Representative Long - excused
Representative Showalter - excused

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Bill Fuller, Associate Director, Kansas Farm Bureau

Others attending: See attached list

Chairperson Flower called for requests for introduction of committee bills.

Bill Fuller, Associate Director, Kansas Farm Bureau, asked the committee to introduce a bill concerning *Sericea lespedeza*, a plant that is destroying thousands of acres of native grass prairie in Kansas, particularly in the southeast region of the state. He requested the bill contain two major provisions:

- Classify *Sericea lespedeza* as a statewide noxious weed in Kansas
- Prohibit the sale of *Sericea lespedeza* in Kansas

Representative Ballou moved to introduce a committee bill making *Sericea lespedeza* a noxious weed and prohibit its sale in Kansas. Seconded by Representative Correll, the motion carried.

Representative Thimesch expressed concern for the small meat processing plants in Kansas and the expense involved with compliance with the new federal HACCP regulations. Representative Thimesch moved to introduce a committee bill authorizing the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Agriculture, or the appropriate department or agency, to determine if the new federal HACCP regulations concerning meat inspections are excessive and unreasonable and of a nature that is harmful to small meat processing plants and the economy in Kansas. He explained that in the event these new federal regulations are found to be excessive and unreasonable, the State of Kansas would not have to adopt the new federal HACCP regulations. The motion, seconded by Representative Lloyd, passed.

Minutes of the January 21, 22, and 23 meetings were presented. Staff reported that the correct spelling of a conferee's name at the January 21 meeting was Sally Nellor. Representative Weiland moved to approve the January 21 minutes as corrected and the January 22 and 23 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Representative Hutchins. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 29, 1997.

