

Approved: 3-24-00  
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Morris at 10:00 a.m. on March 21, 2000, 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  
   Nancy Kippes, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:  
   Greg Krissek, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture

Others attending:      (See Attached)

Senator Clark made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2000 meeting as submitted. Senator Huelskamp seconded. The motion carried.

Hearing on:

**SB 664 - an act concerning agriculture; relating to inspection fees, funding for plant pest activities**

Greg Krissek, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, testified in support of **SB 664** which would change the statute to broaden how the fees from the fertilizer, feeding stuffs and agricultural liming funds can be used (Attachment 1). He stated it seemed appropriate to use these fees for the purpose of funding a portion of the activity of the Plant Protection and Weed Control Program, inasmuch as the people who pay the fees benefit from the activities of this program.

Senator Biggs made a motion to amend **SB 664** to allow only \$35,000.00 from the fertilizer fund and \$35,000.00 from the feeding stuffs fund and only \$5,000.00 from the agricultural liming fund. Senator Umbarger seconded. The motion carried.

Senator Clark made a motion to strike from line 1, page 3 the \$100,000 for the pesticide use survey inasmuch as the survey will be underway by the time this bill becomes effective. Senator Huelskamp seconded. The motion carried.

Senator Umbarger made a motion to pass **SB 664** favorably as amended. Senator Downey seconded. The motion carried. Senators Corbin, Huelskamp and Tyson are recorded as having voted no.



STATE OF KANSAS

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KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Senate Agriculture Committee

March 21, 2000

Testimony Regarding Senate Bill 664

Greg Krissek, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture

Good afternoon Chairman Morris and members of the Senate Agriculture Committee. I am Greg Krissek, Assistant Secretary of the Kansas Department of Agriculture. I appear before you today in support of Senate Bill 664.

Everyone is aware that FY 2001 is a tight budget year for state government and that all agencies were asked to cut state general fund (SGF) expenditures. KDA's share is approximately \$575,000 and that was made by cutting seven positions, reducing other operating expenditures, moving the DWR Topeka field office into the Mills Building and funding a portion of the activity of the Plant Protection and Weed Control Program with \$72,100 split between the feed, fertilizer and lime fee funds.

The budget folks feel that this is an appropriate way to use these fee funds. However, my attorneys believe that if we want to make this change, we must change the law. Therefore, I am here today to ask for a statutory change to slightly broaden how the fees from the fertilizer, feed and lime funds can be used. I believe that it is appropriate to use these fees for this purpose because the people who pay the fees benefit from the activities of the Plant Protection and Weed Control Program. The goal of this program is to ensure the health and protection of the state's natural and cultivated plant and honeybee resources from pests, diseases and weeds. This is accomplished through implementation of the Kansas Plant Pest Act, Kansas Noxious Weed Law, Kansas Apiary Inspection Act, Kansas Black Stem Rust Law and several federal agreements and memoranda of understanding.

*Senate Agriculture*  
*3-21-00*  
*attachment 1*

Activities of the Plant Protection and Weed Control Program that directly benefit agriculture include:

- Initiation of a regional survey for Karnal bunt disease of wheat in 1993 which insured that Kansas wheat could continue to be exported. Approximately 78 countries currently have the United States under quarantine for this disease.
- Improvement of export commodity services to the point where if an exporter requests a phytosanitary certificate on an inspected commodity by noon, the certificate can be issued that same day.
- Noxious weed research shows the detrimental impact they have on production. This program works with the counties to achieve noxious weed control. Sericea lespedeza is also a part of this activity.
- When Grecian foxglove was discovered in southeast Kansas, KDA worked with the landowner to eradicate it. (Grecian foxglove is deadly to cattle.) This activity was funded through Kansas' participation in an interstate pest compact.

You will notice the amendment caps the amount that can be used by the Plant Protection and Weed Control Program to \$75,000 from each fund. I felt the cap was necessary to ensure that all Kansans, through the SGF, continue to support this important function within the Department of Agriculture. All Kansans benefit from the work of this program as consumers of food.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear in support of S.B. 664. I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.