

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Taddiken at 8:30 a.m. on January 30, 2007 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Derek Schmidt- excused

Committee staff present:
Becky Krahl, Kansas Legislative Research
Art Griggs, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Judy Seitz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:
John Donley, Government Affairs, Kansas Livestock Association
Brad Harrelson, State Policy Director - Governmental Relations, Kansas Farm Bureau
Constantine Cotsoradis, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture
Donn Teske, President, Kansas Farmers Union

Others attending:
See attached list.

Chairman Taddiken asked for bill introductions. There were none.

Hearings on **SCR 1604 - Concurrent resolution urging Congress to allow interstate sale of state inspected meat** were opened.

John Donley, Government Affairs, Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), spoke in favor of **SCR 1604** (Attachment 1). He said that KLA's position is that as long as a state-inspected plant meets the equivalent standards of inspection that are required by HACCP requirements, they should be allowed to sell the meat in interstate commerce.

Mr. Donley offered to stand for questions.

Brad Harrelson, State Policy Director - Governmental Relations, Kansas Farm Bureau, offered testimony in favor of **SCR 1604** (Attachment 2). He stated that since the state inspection programs must meet or exceed federal inspection requirements, it makes little sense to exclude state-inspected meat from interstate markets.

Mr. Harrelson offered to stand for questions.

Constantine Cotsoradis, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA), presented testimony in favor of **SCR 1604** (Attachment 3). He introduced Dr. Rebecca Pfannenstiel who is the new Program Manager for Meat and Poultry and Food Safety at the KDA. Mr. Cotsoradis said that removing the ban on interstate sales of state-inspected meat products would level the economic playing field for small businesses, spur more competition in the marketplace and create a more uniform inspection system. He also stated that current law allows products from meat processors in other countries greater access to American markets than is our state-inspected plants.

Mr. Cotsoradis took questions from the Committee.

Dr. Pfannenstiel also responded to Committee questions.

Donn Teske, President, Kansas Farmers Union, spoke in support of **SCR 1604** (Attachment 4). He said that it makes no sense when state inspection regulations that meet, or in Kansas's case exceed, Federal standards won't be allowed by the Federal government to legally market across state lines.

Mr. Teske offered to stand for questions.

There were no opponents to **SCR 1604**.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Agriculture at 8:30 a.m. on January 30, 2007 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

Hearings were closed on **SCR 1604**.

Senator Bruce moved to report SCR 1604 favorably. Senator Francisco seconded the motion. There was discussion.

The Committee discussed the ramifications of states not enforcing the Federal law dealing with the interstate of sale of state inspected meat

Motion passed to report SCR 1604 favorably out of Committee.

Chairman Taddiken asked the Committee's desire on **SB 19 - County fairs levy for buildings and grounds and maintenance**. Senator Lee moved that SB 19 be moved out favorably, seconded by Senator Ostmeyer. There was discussion on the motion.

Senator Francisco suggested there be a Subcommittee to study statutes which are no longer applicable to county fairs. The county fairs were regulated by the Board of Agriculture. When the Board of Agriculture was abolished and the Department of Agriculture formed, the regulations of county fairs was not addressed.

Motion passed and SB 19 will be reported passed favorably out of Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

The next Committee meeting will be held on January 31 in Room 423-S.