

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Morris at 10:00 a.m. on February 15, 2000, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Dwayne Umbarger (E)

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, Kansas Department of Agriculture  
Bob Scott, Prairie Pines Christmas Tree Farm, Wichita  
Willy Goevert, 4C Tree Farm, Wichita  
Gary Beachner, Beachner Grain, Inc., St. Paul  
Bill Emch, Emch Feed & Elevator Co., Inc., Madison  
Keith Karnes, Co-Ag, Menlo  
Johnny Schaben, Farm Service Center, Inc., Ellinwood  
Dustin Kuntz, Harveyville Seed Co., Inc., Harveyville  
Mike Kleiber, Ag Service, Inc., Hillsboro  
Mike Beam, Executive Secretary, Cow-Calf/Stocker Division, Kansas Livestock Association

Others attending: (See Attached)

Hearing on:

**SB 572 - an act enacting the land stewardship by management and control of noxious weeds act**

Greg Krissek, Assistant Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, testified in support of **SB 572** which proposes to revamp Kansas' noxious weed law. Mr. Krissek stated that since the original law was enacted in 1937, many aspects of weed management and control have changed radically. During the testimony he explained aspects of **SB 572** and how the modifications would effect the noxious weed issue ([Attachment 1](#)).

Bob Scott, Prairie Pines Christmas Tree Farm, Wichita, stating his reasons for supporting **SB 572** were that it is impossible to "eradicate" bindweed without causing environmental damage but it is possible to "control" it and classifying noxious weeds with varying degrees of severity is a reasonable approach ([Attachment 2](#)).

Willy Goevert, 4C Tree Farm, Wichita, testified in support of wording in **SB 572** to control and manage noxious weeds as opposed to eradicate noxious weeds ([Attachment 3](#)). Mr. Goevert noted that Dr. Bill Bryant, Chairman, KCTGA Noxious Weed Control Committee, has furnished written testimony in support of **SB 572** ([Attachment 4](#)).

Gary Beachner, Beachner Grain, Inc., St. Paul, testified in support of **SB 572**, stating the new law provides for subsidized control by providing a subsidy on approved control practices, reimbursed on a per-acre basis ([Attachment 5](#)).

Bill Emch, Emch Feed & Elevator Co., Inc., Madison, appeared before the committee in support of **SB 572** advising that the title of this bill "Land Stewardship by Management and Control of Noxious Weeds Act" is a vitally important mission to every farmer and rancher, county noxious weed director, and ag input suppliers ([Attachment 6](#)).

Keith Karnes, Co-Ag, Menlo, testified in support of **SB 572** stating that the bill offers landowners/farmers

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, Room 423-S of the Capitol, 10:00 a.m., on February 15, 2000.

a choice when pursuing options for noxious weed control ([Attachment 7](#)).

Johnny Schaben, Farm Service Center, Inc., Ellinwood, stated his support for **SB 572**, which would give farmers the option to buy products for noxious weed control at locations other than just the county noxious weed office. He stated that many of these products are available in bulk at dealerships but are not at the county noxious weed office ([Attachment 8](#)).

Dustin Kuntz, Harveyville Seed Co., Inc., Harveyville, testified in support of **SB 572** stating it would allow customers to purchase only the amount of chemical needed for a particular job inasmuch as the noxious weed department does not always have the appropriate size ([Attachment 9](#)).

Mike Kleiber, Ag Service, Inc., Hillsboro, conveyed his support for **SB 572** by noting the success of the cost share certificate option in his county as provided in the current noxious weed law ([Attachment 10](#)).

Mike Beam, Kansas Livestock Association, testified in support of **SB 572**, stating that this legislation is an overhaul and improvement in the existing statutes governing noxious weed control programs in Kansas ([Attachment 11](#)).

The hearing on **SB 572** was continued to February 16, 2000.