

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Johnson at 3:30 p.m. on January 16, 2002, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Flora - absent
Representative Hayzlett - absent
Representative O'Brien - excused

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Alan Alderson, Western Association
Jamie Clover Adams, Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture

Others attending: See attached list

Chairman Johnson welcomed everyone back to the first House Agriculture Committee meeting of the 2002 Legislative Session. Representative Thimesch reported on the health of Representative O'Brien following an accident last summer.

Alan Alderson, Legislative Counsel for Western Association, requested introduction of a committee bill that would amend the buy-back laws which regulate the obligations of manufacturers of farm equipment, outdoor power equipment, and lawn and garden equipment to repurchase equipment and parts when a dealership contract has been terminated. (Attachment 1) Representative Dahl moved to introduce this legislation as a committee bill. Seconded by Representative Freeborn, the motion carried.

Representative Thimesch reported that the State of Ohio has requested a USDA pilot program to allow their state inspected meat processors to sell their products across state lines. Representative Thimesch requested introduction of a resolution to encourage passage of this pilot program and to ultimately allow interstate marketing of state inspected meat. Seconded by Representative Dahl, the motion carried.

Jamie Clover Adams, Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, presented an overview of the department's Fiscal Year 2001 Annual Report including their food safety, consumer protection, environmental protection, and water resource management programs. (Attachment 2)

The Secretary briefed the committee on the various regulatory programs administered by the department. She reviewed the agency's budget and discussed proposed 2002 legislative initiatives, including new fees the department is proposing as well as existing fee increases. The repeal of several statutes was also proposed. (Attachment 3)

Proposed New Fees:

- Annual Nutrient Utilization Plan Inspection Fee
- Annual Weights and Measures Facility Authorization Fee
- Meat and Poultry Wholesaler/Broker Registration Fee
- Annual Live Plant Dealer License Fee
- Water Appropriations – Ownership Changes; Filing Water Use Reports; Failure to File Accurate Reports
- Water Structures – Steam Obstruction or Channel Change Application; Dam Construction Permit; Dam Inspections; Fills and Levee Permits

CONTINUATION SHEET

Proposed Existing Fee Increases:

- Dairy Inspection and Licenses
- Meat and Poultry Licenses and Registration; Overtime Charges
- Pesticide Product Registration
- Pesticide Applicator Certification
- Pesticide Business License
- Chemigation Certification and Permits
- Seed Wholesaler/Dealer Registration
- Agricultural Lime Inspection Fees and Production Registration
- Soil Amendment Inspection Fees and Product Registration
- Live Plant and Plant Product Inspection, Certification and Licensing
- Phytosanitary Inspection and Certificates
- Water Appropriation Permits, Changes and Inspections
- Weights and Measures Licenses
- Weights and Measures Metrology Lab Calibration and Tolerance Testing.

Statute Repeal Proposals:

- Livestock Remedy Registration Repeal
- Frozen Dairy Dessert Inspection Repeal
- Apiary Inspection, Registration and Permit Repeal

Representative Freeborn moved to introduce the necessary committee bills to encompass the Secretary's proposed legislative requests. The motion was seconded by Representative Dahl. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 23.