

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Johnson at 3:30 p.m. on January 23, 2002, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Miller - excused
Representative O'Brien - excused
Representative Thimesch - excused

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Connie Fischer, Director, Agriculture Products Development Division, Department of Commerce & Housing
George Teagarden, Livestock Commissioner, Animal Health Department

Others attending: See attached list

Connie Fischer, Director, Agriculture Products Development Division, Department of Commerce & Housing, presented the division's Fiscal Year 2001 Annual Report. She discussed the division's various programs to help improve the economic conditions of Kansas agriculture producers while boosting the prosperity of rural communities through the Agricultural Value Added Center, the *From the Land of Kansas* trademark program, International Trade Development, and Domestic Marketing programs. (Attachment 1)

George Teagarden, Livestock Commissioner, Animal Health Department, requested introduction of a committee bill to amend the state emergency plan relating to contagious and infectious domestic animal diseases as it concerns payment by county commissions. His proposal would remove county commissions from the statute and provide payment by the State of Kansas unless all or part can be paid for by the federal government. Representative Freeborn moved to introduce this request as a committee bill. Seconded by Representative Hayzlett, the motion carried.

Action on HB 2602 - County discount program to control noxious weeds.

Raney Gilliland explained that **HB 2602** is identical to **HB 2468** which passed the House last session, but was gutted in the Senate. The bill would require a board of county commissioners to establish a program to provide chemical materials used in the control and eradication of noxious weeds to landowners through chemical dealers on a discount basis. The bill provides that a board of county commissioners may adopt a resolution to opt out of this program. A petition provision calling for an election to reinstate the program is, also, set forth in the bill.

Doug Wareham, Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association and Kansas Grain and Feed Association, indicated they still support this bill.

Representative Dahl moved to recommend **HB 2602** favorable for passage. Seconded by Representative Schwartz, the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 28.

