

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Johnson at 3:30 p.m. on February 28, 2001, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Faber - excused
 Representative Flora - absent
 Representative Thimesch - excused

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Rebecca Reed, Special Assistant to the Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture
 Todd Johnson, Executive Secretary, Purebred Division, Kansas Livestock Association
 Bill Fuller, Associate Director, Public Policy Division, Kansas Farm Bureau
 Doug Wareham, Vice President, Government Affairs, Kansas Grain and Feed Association

Others attending: See attached list

Hearing and action on SB 60 - Repealing the statute requiring the statistics division of the department of agriculture to work with county appraisers to collect agricultural data from producers.

Chairman Johnson opened the hearing on **SB 60**. Raney Gilliland explained that this bill would repeal a section of law that requires county appraisers statewide to collect agricultural data from all producers within each county, then to submit the data to the Statistics Division of the Kansas Department of Agriculture for compilation and publication in the biennial reports of the agency.

Rebecca Reed, Special Assistant to the Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, appeared in support of **SB 60**. She explained that due to changes in the state property tax code, this method of data collection has become ineffective in accomplishing the original goal of identifying new producers and has become a burden to county appraisers. The Department believes that expanding the Agriculture Statistics Division's end-of-year acreage and production surveys, combined with the five-year census data, and follow-up telephone calls, will result in better, more abundant data. (Attachment 1)

A copy of a letter from Paul Welcome, Johnson County Appraiser and legislative chair for the Kansas County Appraisers' Association, was submitted in support of **SB 60**. (Attachment 2)

There being no other conferees, the Chairman closed the hearing and opened discussion on **SB 60**. Representative Feuerborn moved to recommend SB 60 be passed, and because the bill is of a noncontroversial nature, be placed on the consent calendar. Seconded by Representative Ostmeyer, the motion carried.

Hearing and action on HCR 5014 - Concurrent Resolution urging Congress to allow interstate marketing of state inspected meat.

Todd Johnson, Executive Secretary, Purebred Division, Kansas Livestock Association, appeared in support of **HCR 5014** encouraging federal legislation to allow state inspected meat processing plants to ship their products across state lines. (Attachment 3)

Bill Fuller, Associate Director, Public Policy Division, Kansas Farm Bureau, expressed Farm Bureau's support for **HCR 5014** urging Congress to enact revisions to the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act to allow the interstate shipment and marketing of meat products by state inspected meat processing

facilities. (Attachment 4)

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections. Page 2

CONTINUATION SHEET

The Kansas Department of Agriculture submitted written testimony in support of **HCR 5014** stating that state-inspected meat and poultry processing plants in Kansas and across the nation have proven to USDA reviewers that they can meet standards “equal to” those imposed on federally inspected plants; therefore, it is only fair that state-inspected plant owners be permitted to market their products anywhere in the United States. (Attachment 5)

Chairman Johnson closed the hearing on **HCR 5014** and opened the floor for discussion. Representative Hutchins moved to recommend HCR 5014 be adopted, and because the resolution is of a noncontroversial nature, be placed on the consent calendar. Seconded by Representative Dahl, the motion carried.

Hearing on HCR 5017 - Concurrent Resolution urging the President and Congress to remove all embargoes and trade sanctions involving agricultural products.

Doug Wareham, Vice President, Government Affairs, Kansas Grain and Feed Association, appeared in support of **HCR 5017** urging the President and Congress to remove or restrict the use of trade sanctions as they apply to agricultural products produced in Kansas and the United States. Mr. Wareham reported that he had visited with someone in Congressman Jerry Moran’s office concerning trade sanctions and was told that on October 28, 2001, public law 106-387 was passed requiring that trade sanctions involving agriculture products must be approved by both houses of Congress and that any unilateral sanctions would expire after 2 years. (Attachment 6)

Bill Fuller, Associate Director, Public Policy Division, Kansas Farm Bureau, testified in support of **HCR 5017** urging the President and Congress to remove all embargoes and trade sanctions involving agricultural products. In light of Mr. Wareham’s testimony, he expressed appreciation for what apparently has already been done and suggested further research and possible rewording of the resolution. (Attachment 7)

Chairman Johnson asked staff to check into recent federal legislation concerning trade sanctions on agricultural products and report back to the committee. The hearing on **HCR 5017** was closed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2001.