

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Johnson at 3:30 p.m. on March 21, 2005, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative John Faber- excused
Representative Bruce Larkin- excused
Representative Virgil Peck- excused

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Others attending:

See attached list.

Minutes of the March 14 and 16 meetings were distributed. Members were asked to notify the committee secretary of any corrections or additions prior to Wednesday, March 23, or the minutes will be considered approved as presented.

Chairman Johnson reported that Constantine Cotsoradis, Assistant Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, and Woody Moses, Kansas Aggregate Producers Association, had reached an agreement on **HB 2103** concerning standards and requirements of commercial weighing and measuring devices. The Senate Agriculture Committee passed the amended bill out of committee this morning. Raney Gilliland explained that the Senate eliminated all House amendatory language and in its place provided: 1) that certain mechanical vehicle scales used solely to weigh aggregate products shall be allowed a minimum tolerance of +/- 100 pounds; 2) the scale cannot be sold or moved to another location; and 3) this exception would be in effect until June 30, 2011. There being no objection, Chairman Johnson will concur with the Senate amendments to **HB 2103**.

Chairman Johnson reported that the Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office asked that **HCR 5016**, supporting a Taiwan-United States trade agreement and amended by the committee to include language encouraging Taiwan to lift the ban on the importation of U.S. beef and beef products, not be passed by the House. The Director General suggested that the committee write a letter to the Taiwan government urging lifting of the ban on the importation of U.S. beef. It was the consensus of the committee to write such a letter. The Senate will pass a resolution supporting a Taiwan-United States free trade agreement.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m. No further meetings of the House Agriculture Committee are scheduled for the 2005 Legislative Session.