

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Johnson at 3:30 p.m. on March 6, 2000, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:

 Jamie Clover Adams, Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture
 George Teagarden, Livestock Commissioner, Kansas Animal Health Department
 Mike Beam, Executive Secretary, Cow-Calf/Stocker Division, Kansas Livestock Association

Others attending: See attached list

Minutes of the March 1 meeting were distributed. Chairman Johnson asked members to notify the committee secretary of any corrections or additions prior to 5:00 p.m., March 7, or they will be considered approved as presented.

Discussion and action on SB 564 - In lieu of a warehouse bond, may be an irrevocable letter of credit.

Chairman Johnson opened discussion on **SB 564**. This bill is identical to **HB 2973** which was heard in the House Agriculture Committee on February 16. Representative Dahl moved to make the technical amendments to SB 564 as suggested by staff. (Attachment 1) Seconded by Representative Weiland, the motion carried.

Representative Dahl moved to recommend SB 564 be passed as amended. Seconded by Representative Weiland, the motion carried.

Hearing on SB 531 - Revision to the Kansas egg law.

Chairman Johnson opened the hearing on **SB 531**.

Jamie Clover Adams, Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, appeared in support of **SB 531** which was requested by the department. She explained that these proposed changes in the Kansas egg law are an attempt to make Kansas law consistent with new federal regulations for egg safety handling which took effect in October, 1999. She outlined the proposed changes in the law:

- Includes definitions for the terms “consumer,” “container,” and “ambient temperature”;
- Decreases the holding temperature requirement for eggs from 60 degrees to 45 degrees;
- Makes the offer for sale of graded eggs that have not been candled or graded a violation of the act;
- Makes failure to properly mark containers a violation of the act;
- Establishes a minimum sampling size of 100 eggs for regulatory activities the same as the federal standard; and
- Increases the late fee from \$1.00/day, mandatory, to \$5.00/day, discretionary.

CONTINUATION SHEET

The Secretary noted that Kansas law provides that a producer selling only eggs of his or her own flock's production is exempt from the provisions of the act.

Secretary Clover Adams recommended a technical amendment to insert the word "ambient" before the word "temperature" on page 2, line 13. (Attachment 2)

As there were no other conferees, the Chairman closed the hearing on **SB 531**.

Hearing on SB 532 - Licensing electronic auctions.

Chairman Johnson opened the hearing on **SB 532**.

George Teagarden, Livestock Commissioner, Kansas Animal Health Department, appeared in support of **SB 532** which was introduced at the department's request. He explained that a major source of funding for the Kansas Animal Health Department is the licensing of traditional livestock market/sale barns and the \$0.15/head marketing fee imposed on the sale of livestock and that these numbers have declined, in part, because other options for marketing of livestock have developed. The Kansas Animal Health Board believes that all livestock auctions, including those conducted by electronic means, should provide support to the department. The department estimates that three satellite auctions and four web sites are involved in electronic livestock auctions in Kansas. Based on these estimates, the department would receive \$280 for license fees and approximately \$15,000 for the per-animal marketing fee. The Commissioner noted that the Senate Agriculture Committee amended the bill to clarify that livestock being exported from the state must have a certificate of veterinary inspection and that Kansas purchasers will be furnished one if requested.

(Attachment 3)

Mike Beam, Executive Secretary, Cow-Calf/Stocker Division, Kansas Livestock Association, testified in support of **SB 532** which was endorsed by the Kansas Livestock Association Animal Health and Brand Committee at their annual meeting in December. He expressed their support for this bill to define electronic auctions and require electronic markets to pay the same fees as traditional auction markets. (Attachment 4)

The Chairman closed the hearing on **SB 532**.

Representative Thimesch requested introduction of a House Concurrent Resolution to encourage livestock producers and processors to market their own products. Seconded by Representative Faber, the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2000.