

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Morris at 10:00 a.m. on March 16, 2000, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:     Senator Christine Downey (E)  
  Senator Tim Huelskamp

Committee staff present:     Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department  
  Jill Wolters, Revisor of Statutes  
  Nancy Kippes, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Daniel Thimesch  
Connie Halls, Director, Kansas Meat Processing Association  
Terry Miller, Bern Meat Plant  
Dr. Curtis Kastner, Professor, Animal Science, Kansas State University  
Dr. James Marsden, Distinguished Professor, Animal Science, Kansas State University  
Connie Fischer, Director, Agriculture Products Development Division, Kansas Department of  
Commerce and Housing

Others attending:     (See Attached)

Senator Corbin made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2000 meeting and the March 15, 2000 meeting as submitted. Senator Clark seconded. The motion carried.

Informational Briefing on Small Locker Plants:

Representative Daniel Thimesch provided numerous printouts concerning small processing plants that are state-inspected not being able to market their products across the state line ([Attachment 1](#)). He stated that other states have programs they have implemented that are working well for marketing farmers and ranchers products.

Connie Halls, Director, Kansas Meat Processing Association, testified that owners of small and very small meat processing businesses in Kansas have identified two primary issues for which they are seeking assistance from the Kansas Legislature and those are: interstate shipment of meat from state inspected facilities and disposal of offal from deer processing ([Attachment 2](#)).

Terry Miller, Bern Meat Plant, appeared before the Committee to relay three areas of importance to small processing plants. These are: to continue funding for state inspection program, to endorse interstate shipment of state-inspected meat, and to request tax credits for plant improvements which were required in order to comply with the Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures (SSPOS) and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) ([Attachment 3](#)).

Dr. Curtis Kastner, Professor, Animal Science, Kansas State University, provided a summary describing HACCP, food safety and value-added support programs and assistance that Kansas State University in cooperation with the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing, and USDA have provided to the Kansas meat and poultry industry so they may adapt and comply with required changes in government regulations ([Attachment 4](#)).

Dr. James Marsden, Distinguished Professor, Animal Science, Kansas State University, testified that there has

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, Room 423-S of the Capitol,  
10:00 a.m., on March 16, 2000.

been a revolution in food safety over the past few years. Dr. Marsden stated that Kansas state-inspected plants are meeting the performance standards and there is no reason why their products should not be allowed to ship across state lines (Attachment 5).

Connie Fischer, Director, Agriculture Products Development Division, Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing, provided an overview of the financial assistance the Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing has given to meat processors throughout the state and emphasized the Department will continue its strong commitment (Attachment 6).

The next meeting will be March 21, 2000.