

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Taddiken at 8:30 a.m. on February 14, 2006 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Derek Schmidt- excused

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research
Lisa Montgomery, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Judy Seitz, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

John Bottenberg, Kansas Pork Association
Sue Schulte, Kansas Corn Growers Association
Senator Janis Lee
Lise Streit, Kansas Horse Council
Dr. Jon Haggard, Kansas Horse Council
Gary Niehues, Land O Lakes Purina Feed
Jo Turner, Kansas Horse Council
Chris Wilson, Kansas Horse Council
Constantine Cotsoradis, Kansas Department of Agriculture
Mary Jane Stankiewicz, Kansas Grain & Feed Association

Others attending:

See attached list.

John Bottenberg appeared in support of **SR 1809--Congratulating and commending the Kansas Pork Association on its 50th anniversary.** Tim Stroda was unable to attend but sent written testimony and a pork industry fact sheet. (Attachment 1). Mr. Bottenberg stated that the pork industry in Kansas had sales last year totaling more than \$400,000,000.

Mr. Bottenberg stood for questions.

Sue Schulte submitted written testimony in support of **SR 1809** (Attachment 2).

Senator Pine made a motion to adopt **SR 1809** with a change in line 28 - adding "s" to soybean. Motion seconded by Senator Ostmeyer. Motion passed.

SB 532--Repealing tax levies for fair association buildings and grounds was then heard. Senator Lee appeared in support of **SB 532** (Attachment 3). One page of Senator Lee's handout was an e-mail from DeWayne Craighead, Hodgeman County Extension. She said that originally the bill was written to repeal K.S.A. 2-131d. Senator Lee now recommends requesting an interim committee on fair board issues. A letter from the Agriculture Committee requesting an interim committee on fair board issues will be written to Representative Mays, chairman of the Legislative Coordinating Council (LCC). Senator Lee made a motion that the Committee send a letter to the LCC (copy to President Morris) requesting an interim committee on the organization and funding of county fairs. Motion seconded by Senator Pine. Motion passed.

Hearings on **SB 542--Creation of the equine industry research and promotion board** were opened. Lise Streit spoke in favor of **SB 542** (Attachment 4). Her organization supports this bill due to the benefits and economic impact that this fund represents to the continued growth of the equine industry in Kansas. (Copies of Kansas Equine Survey 1996, brochures on the Kansas Horse Council and Equifest on file in Senator Taddiken's office.)

Ms. Streit stood for questions.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Agriculture at 8:30 a.m. on February 14, 2006 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

Mr. Gilliland briefed the Committee on **SB 542**. He said this bill would create the Kansas Equine Industry Research and Promotion Board consisting of seven members serving for terms of four years. He reviewed the duties and the duties of the Board. He also reviewed the assessment fees in Sec. 4 and the violations in Sec. 6.

Mr. Gilliland took questions from the Committee.

Dr. Jon Haggard testified in favor of **SB 542** (Attachment 5). The money raised could be used to help fund education programs, to help improve parks and recreation activities to increase the tourism industry in Kansas. It could also be used to help in natural disasters and creation of a statewide system to care for abused and neglected animals.

Chairman Taddiken requested that question be deferred until all conferees have testified.

Gary Niehues spoke in favor of **SB 542** (Attachment 6). He said that a fund that will benefit the equine industry in Kansas will in turn increase feed demand and benefit feed manufacturers through increased sales.

Jo Turner testified in support of **SB 542** (Attachment 7). She said the economic impact will benefit not only the horse industry but all economic sectors with direct or indirect links to equine activities including food sales, fuel sales, hotels, truck, trailer and tire sales and repair, feed, hay and livestock equipment and products.

Chris Wilson spoke in support of **SB 542** but had no written testimony.

Mary Jane Stankiewicz offered testimony opposing **SB 542** (Attachment 8). She said the Kansas Grain and Feed Association has concerns about the task of collecting and paying into the research fund and would prefer a different means of funding the program than a checkoff program where they are the reporting entity. She offered an amendment (Attachment 9) on page 3, Sec. 4 (b) to read "*Any manufacturer or retail seller that sells 200 tons or less of commercial equine feed shall be exempt from this act.*"

Conferees stood for questions.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2006.