

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Johnson at 3:30 p.m. on March 5, 2001, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Flora - absent

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh, Agricultural Economist at Kansas State University and Chairman of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Commission on Production Agriculture  
Greg Foley, Assistant Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture  
Kerri Ebert, Executive Secretary, Kansas Dairy Association  
Gary Reser, Executive Director, Kansas Veterinary Medical Association  
Dr. Dirk Hanson, Executive Director, Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners

Others attending: See attached list

Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh, Agricultural Economist at Kansas State University and Chairman of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Commission on Production Agriculture, reported that the goal of the Commission was to provide a framework for future farm policy. The Commission defined the appropriate role of the federal government in support of production agriculture as one that will:

- ! Ensure a competitive agricultural economy through monitoring of concentration, enforcement of antitrust laws and related regulatory authority, ensuring transparency of market behavior, including contracting.
- ! Develop policies and programs that enhance the competitiveness of U.S. agricultural products, reduce trade barriers, open markets, and enhance the ability of producers to maximize value-added opportunities.
- ! Base all policy on sound science and insist that foreign competitors do likewise.
- ! Promote and enhance food safety and a clean environment.
- ! Promote and enhance animal and plant health and safety.
- ! Provide support for agricultural research and education.
- ! Enhance the development and use of risk-management tools.
- ! Develop and fund programs that meet the special needs of small and limited-resource farmers.
- ! Provide an effective and adequate income safety net for farmers with minimal market distortion.

Dr. Flinchbaugh stressed that an effective and adequate income safety net for farmers with minimal market distortion is the most important role of the federal government in support of production agriculture. He summarized the majority report in finding a long-term solution to U. S. production agriculture policy as a four wheeler: 1) marketing loan; 2) farm savings account; 3) crop/revenue insurance; and 4) counter-cyclical income payment. He noted that the report also has two spare tires, a conservation program and trade. The full report is available on the internet at [www.usda.gov/oce/](http://www.usda.gov/oce/) (Attachment 1)

## CONTINUATION SHEET

### **Hearing on SB 59 - Update, clarify and streamline the Kansas dairy law.**

Greg Foley, Assistant Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, appeared in support of **SB 59** and reviewed the proposed changes needed to update existing dairy statutes: (Attachment 2)

- 1) Consolidate the two existing dairy fee funds into one fund.
- 2) Eliminate discrepancies in statutes relating to penalties for late fee payments.
- 3) Remove obsolete statutes.
- 4) Reorganize the statutes into general categories relating to ungraded milk, grade A milk, manufacturing milk, and frozen dairy desserts.

Kerri Ebert, Executive Secretary, Kansas Dairy Association, representing 650 dairy producers in Kansas, testified in support of **SB 59**. She stated that although this bill is noncontroversial it is very important to their industry because these statutes define how dairy farms and processing plants are inspected and licensed by the Kansas Department of Agriculture. (Attachment 3)

There being no other conferees, Chairman Johnson closed the hearing on **SB 59** and opened the floor for discussion. Representative Larkin moved to recommend SB 59 be passed, and because the bill is of a noncontroversial nature, be placed on the consent calendar. Seconded by Representative Dahl, the motion carried.

### **Hearing on SB 162 - Kansas veterinary practice act; license fee increase, application for exam, definition of veterinary prescription drugs.**

Gary Reser, Executive Director, Kansas Veterinary Medical Association, testified that the amendments to the Kansas Veterinary Practice Act found in **SB 162** have been reviewed and approved for support by the KVMA Legislative Committee and Executive Board. (Attachment 4)

Dr. Dirk Hanson, Executive Director, Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners, appeared in support of **SB 162** and outlined the proposed changes to the Veterinary Practice Act. He explained that the first amendment would modify the definition of "veterinary prescription drug" to change the referenced section of the U.S. Code and to indicate that the version in effect is the one in effect on July 1, 2001. The second amendment would increase the maximum application fee for a license to practice veterinary medicine in Kansas from \$250 to \$500. He explained that because the two examinations given previously have now been combined into one examination there will be no real increase in the examination fee. The third amendment would require a person desiring to take the state veterinary examination to make application at least 60 days in advance, instead of the 45 days currently required. (Attachment 5)

There being no other conferees, the Chairman closed the hearing and opened discussion on **SB 162**. Representative Ostmeyer moved to recommend SB 59 be passed, and because the bill is of a noncontroversial nature, be placed on the consent calendar. Seconded by Representative Hayzlett, the motion passed.

Minutes of the February 7, 12, 14, 19 and 28 meetings were distributed. Chairman Johnson asked members to notify the committee secretary of any corrections or additions prior to March 12, or they will be considered approved as presented.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2001.