

CONTINUATION SHEET

SB 61 - Kansas meat and poultry inspection act; defining wholesaler, distributor and public warehouseman and requiring such persons to be registered

Greg A. Foley, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, testified in favor of **SB 61**. Mr. Foley stated the inspection program and the state's small meat processors have been challenged to improve sanitation in plants to maintain the state "equal to" federal status and approval from the USDA. Recent review earned the program plaudits from federal reviewers and a laudable category II. The state's fully inspected plants developed and put into effect new Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) plans as of January 2000. Federal legislation is presently pending that allows interstate shipment of state-inspected meat and poultry. (Attachment 2)

SB 61 amends the definitions of "Wholesaler", "Distributor", and "Public warehouseman" to clarify which entities are required to register and defines their categories. KDA anticipates an industry move toward value-added products and the proposed changes will allow the Meat and Poultry Inspection Program to address such changes. These amendments provide the inspection program authority to monitor meats that enter the food supply, and to ensure that each registrant complies with existing laws and regulations, in order to provide a wholesome product to Kansas consumers.

SB 61 modifies the fee statute to include wholesaler, distributor, and public warehouseman. Mr. Foley stated there are currently 153 distributors, wholesalers and warehouses registered with the Secretary of Agriculture and the \$50 assessment is projected to generate \$7,650 which will defray some of the costs to inspect these facilities. The registration fee was inadvertently omitted from a previous revision of the act.

Frances Kastner, Kansas Food Dealers Association, testified in opposition to **SB 61**, stating the registration fee is another cost that must be borne by the food dealers. The food dealers are the persons bearing the increased cost for all the regulations.

A Memorandum from Tracy Streeter, Executive Director, State Conservation Commission, relating to TMDL high priority areas, was distributed to members of the Committee. (Attachment 3)

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2001.