

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Taddiken at 8:30 a.m. on March 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:
Constantine Cotsoradis, Kansas Department of Agriculture
George Teagarden, Kansas Animal Health Department
Pete Sherlock, Kansas Pork Association

Others attending:
See attached list.

Chairman Taddiken noted that the Committee has two sets of minutes (March 7 & 8) to review and action to be taken at the end of the meeting.

The hearing on **HB 2836--Revisions to the Kansas egg law** was opened.

Constantine Cotsoradis appeared in support of **HB 2836** (Attachment 1). The new law would require licensing of those selling eggs and expands record keeping requirements for license holders. It would exempt producers selling eggs from their own flock, but add some size, handling and temperature requirements. The new law would also clarify labeling requirements, limit repackaging of eggs by retailers and provide civil penalty authority.

Mr. Cotsoradis stood for questions.

Mr. Gilliland reviewed the changes in the bill. There are new definitions for eggs, handling, food purveyor, graded eggs, identity, last handler, pack date, packer, producer and repackaging eggs. He also said another change would make it unlawful to sell or distribute eggs without a license. Failure to comply with this act would be a violation. The inspection fee would only apply once. He also reviewed the license requirements and fees. He said other changes are the requirements for egg handling, packaging and storage temperature.

Mr. Gilliland took questions from the Committee.

Irma Lightner, ACAP/KDA, responded to questions from the Committee.

Hearings on **HB 2836** were closed.

Hearings on **HB 2899--Penalties related to certain actions involving feral swine** were opened.

George Teagarden offered testimony in support of **HB 2899** (Attachment 2). He said the main concern of the Kansas Animal Health Department is that if feral swine infects the domestic herd, the state loses its free status and domestic producers would be required to increase testing for sales of their production. Currently the feral swine can be hunted but they cannot be imported. He also had information on the population of feral swine (Attachment 3).

Mr. Teagarden stood for questions.

Pete Sherlock spoke in support of **HB 2899** (Attachment 4). He said that wild pigs are carriers of external parasites and diseases which could be very damaging to the Kansas pork industry.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Dr. Sherlock took questions from the Committee.

Chairman Taddiken said hearings on **HB 2899** will be continued until Tuesday, March 21

A motion to approve the Committee meeting minutes for March 7 and March 8 was made by Senator Huelskamp. Seconded by Senator Pine. Motion passed.

Discussion was opened on **HB 2432-- Liability of property owners of land adjacent to recreational trails.** Senator Bruce made a motion to change the effective date from "publication in the statute book" to "publication in the *Kansas Register*." Motion seconded by Senator Huelskamp. Motion passed.

Senator Huelskamp is in support of this bill and has amendments to the bill. No copies of the amendments were available. Chairman Taddiken said the discussions on this bill will be held later when copies of the amendments are available.

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

Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh will give a presentation at the next Committee meeting on March 15, 2006.