

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Taddiken at 8:30 A.M. on January 25, 2005 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent: Ralph Ostmeyer- excused

Committee staff present: Amy VanHouse, Kansas Legislative Research
Lisa Montgomery, Office of Revisor of Statues
Jacqui Jones, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: George Teagarden, Livestock Commissioner of the Kansas
Animal Health Department (KAHD)

Others attending: See attached list

Mr. Teagarden provided copies of his testimony to members of the Committee (see attachment 1).

Commissioner Teagarden informed the Committee that in 2004 KAHD asked for authority to implement a national animal identification program as it is developed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) thus **HB-2593** became law.

Commissioner Teagarden remarked that the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) is in the early stages of being implemented by USDA. Species included in the group to be identified includes cattle, bison, swine, sheep, goats, horses, camelids, domesticated deer and elk, poultry(chicken and turkey) and fish. Livestock producers of cattle and swine groups have reported to USDA with their recommendations to outline how the plan would be implemented and other groups are expected to report as progress is made on their work. Presently, this is a voluntary system. Commissioner Teagarden explained in the attached testimony why it is felt that the program will be more readily accepted if it remains this way.

The goal of NAIS is to achieve a trace back system that can identify all animals and premises potentially exposed to an animal with a foreign animal disease (FAAD) within 48 hours of discovery.

In July 2004, USDA asked for applicants for "pilot projects" involving animal identification and out of forty-five applications twenty-nine were approved for funding with Kansas being one of the successful applicants.

Details of the Kansas pilot project were set out within the testimony. Official animal identification has not been implemented at this time. The development of a national data base for tracing animals is not yet developed. The official NAIS tags are scheduled to be available in July 2005 once the data base is built. Recordings of animal movement will be made when there is a change of ownership, a change of premises and/or interstate movement.

During the Kansas State Fair, the definition of "premises" was discussed by representatives of the Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Farmers Union, Kansas Dairy Association, Kansas Cattleman's Association, Kansas Pork Association, Kansas Livestock Association, Kansas Sheep Association and the Kansas Department of Agriculture. A worksheet was passed out at four regional meetings, with about 50 people attending each, is attached to the testimony (see attachment 1-3) defining premises in laymen's terms. Return was extremely low and there was no consensus on any additional fees or enforcement. Because USDA is funding the pilot project there is no need for any state fees or penalties. The definition of "premise" has been presented for temporary regulation. Once in effect, the process to make the definition a permanent regulation will follow.

Premises registration will identify ownership of land and livestock and the principal contact person for each operation. The ownership/management/contractor for those operations in Kansas that may be owned by an absentee or whether the livestock are owned by another and the management is covered by contract managers.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Agriculture at 8:30 A.M. on January 25, 2005 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

Details of a power point presentation given by Commissioner Teagarden are attached as (Attachment 2).

The Commissioner stood for questions.

Upon a motion by Senator Huelskamp and seconded by Senator Pine, the minutes of January 11, January 12 and January 19 were unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2005.