

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Johnson at 3:30 p.m. on February 13, 2002, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Flora - excused
Representative O'Brien - excused

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Alan Alderson, Legislative Counsel, Western Association
Rebecca Reed, Special Assistant to the Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture
Ted Zielke, Chairman, Kansas Corn Commission
Dusti Fritz, Assistant Administrator, Kansas Wheat Commission
Ed Mader, Chairman, Kansas Soybean Commission
Jeff Casten, Chairman, Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission
Steve Baccus, Sunflower Producer, Minneapolis, Kansas
Leslie Kaufman, Associate Director, Public Policy Division, Kansas Farm Bureau (written only)

Others attending: See attached list

A moment of silence was observed in honor of Lloyd Polson, a former Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, who had recently passed away.

Discussion and action on HB 2768 - Termination of pastureland tenancies.

Raney Gilliland reviewed the bill for the committee. Representative Freeborn, moved to recommend HB 2768 be passed, and because the bill is of a noncontroversial nature, be placed on the consent calendar. Seconded by Representative Dahl, the motion carried.

Discussion and action on HB 2660 - Repurchase of machinery, equipment and parts upon termination of dealership franchise agreements.

Alan Alderson, Legislative Counsel for Western Association, offered an amendment to **HB 2660** suggested by Case New Holland, Inc. On Page 2, lines 1 and 2, also, line 32, and on Page 3, line 16, the amendment would strike the words, "acquired from any source authorized or arranged for by" and insert the words "ordered from, or invoiced to the retailer by, or financed to the retailer by" (Attachment 1) Representative Freeborn moved to amend HB 2660 as proposed by Mr. Alderson. Seconded by Representative Schwartz, the motion carried.

Representative Schwartz moved to recommend HB 2660, as amended, favorable for passage. The motion was seconded by Representative Freeborn. The motion passed.

Raney Gilliland provided a brief history of the Grain Commodity Commissions in Kansas. Rebecca Reed, Special Assistant to the Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, brought the committee up to date on the commissions since privatization two years ago and reviewed the new election process. (Attachment 2)

Ted Zielke, Chairman of the Kansas Corn Commission, presented their annual legislative report. To improve the election process, he suggested extending the time that a commission candidate has to file a petition by one month, until the end of November. (Attachment 3)

CONTINUATION SHEET

Dusti Fritz, Assistant Administrator of the Kansas Wheat Commission, presented the commission's annual report and provided a summary of their activities. (Attachment 4)

Ed Mader, Chairman of the Kansas Soybean Commission, presented their annual report reviewing their programs and projects. He noted that unlike the other commissions, the Kansas Soybean Commission is part of a federal check-off program. (Attachment 5)

Jeff Casten, Chairman of the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission, presented their annual report highlighting grain sorghum promotion and market development activities. (Attachment 6)

Hearing, discussion and action on HB 2818 - Creating the sunflower commodity commission.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **HB 2818**. Raney Gilliland explained that this bill would create a Sunflower Commodity Commission similar to the other four commodity commissions. In order to get started, the Governor would appoint the first commissioners.

Steve Baccus, a sunflower producer from Minneapolis, Kansas, appeared in support of **HB 2818** to establish a Kansas Sunflower Commission. He noted that Kansas is the largest sunflower producing state without a check-off, and like most other sunflower producing states, this bill proposes a .03 per cwt. check-off. He estimated that this would raise approximately \$123,000 per year. He said that a check-off was vital to solving production and marketing problems unique to sunflower producers in the high plains. (Attachment 7)

Leslie Kaufman, Associate Director, Public Policy Division, Kansas Farm Bureau, submitted written testimony in support of **HB 2818** allowing for the creation of a sunflower commodity commission. (Attachment 8)

Representative Freeborn moved to amend **HB 2818** to change the date that a person must submit a petition to be placed on the ballot to serve as a commissioner from on or before October 31 in the year immediately preceding the election to November 30 as suggested by Ted Zielke, Chairman of the Kansas Corn Commission. The other Grain Commodity Commissions concurred with this proposal. Seconded by Representative Feuerborn, the amendment passed.

Representative Freeborn moved to recommend **HB 2818**, as amended, favorable for passage. The motion was seconded by Representative Compton. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2002.