

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Johnson at 3:30 p.m. on January 25, 2006, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

### Committee staff present:

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

### Conferees appearing before the committee:

George Teagarden, Livestock Commissioner, Kansas Animal Health Department  
Janet Forge, Chairperson, Grape and Wine Industry Advisory Council

### Others attending:

See attached list.

Ron Klataske, Executive Director, Audubon of Kansas, requested introduction of two committee bills. His first bill request would repeal all of K.S.A. 80-1201 thru 80-1208; his second bill request would be to revise K.S.A. 80-1201 concerning the management and/or control of prairie dogs and repeal K.S.A. 80-1202 thru 80-1208. He said either of these approaches was acceptable and asked that they be considered side by side in the Committee. (Attachment 1) There being no objection, Chairman Johnson said these bill requests would be introduced as committee bills.

Dirk Hanson, Executive Director, Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners, requested introduction of three bills making seven changes to the statutes commonly known as the veterinary practice act. The changes would clarify the intent, eliminate some outdated sections, and propose new language for more efficient enforcement of the veterinary practice act. He asked that the three bills be worked together. Seeing no objection, the Chairman said these bill requests would be introduced as three committee bills.

George Teagarden, Livestock Commissioner, Kansas Animal Health Department, reported on the progress of the Kansas Animal Identification System, as part of the NAIS, a State/Federal/Industry cooperative program intended to identify animal premises, individual animals, and ultimately to track movements of animals in commerce. The draft of USDA's strategic plan, currently voluntary, calls for premise registration and animal identification by January 2008, with the tracking system to be in place by January 2009. Kansas currently has 2500 premises registered out of an estimated 66,000. He discussed various enhanced premise registration programs; a transportation tracking pilot project that failed to meet their expectations; and a grant application in conjunction with K-State to study the impact of environmental interferences on equipment function and an economic assessment of RFID technology implementation. (Attachment 2)

Mr. Teagarden requested introduction of a committee bill to strengthen the statutes in regard to feral swine, requesting increased funding for control and eradication. There being no objection, Chairman Johnson said this request would be introduced as a committee bill.

Janet Forge, Chairperson, Grape and Wine Industry Advisory Council, discussed the incredible growth in the grape and wine industry in Kansas the past year. At the beginning of 2005 there were seven wineries operating in the state, six more opened during the year. At present, three more are in the process of opening. A survey conducted by the Department of Commerce found that 100 additional acres of grapes need to be planted in the next five years to meet the grape demand by existing wineries. The 2005 Legislature revised state winery statutes to allow Kansas farm wineries to have up to three outlet locations and raised the production limits from 50,000 to 100,000 gallons of wine per year. The industry's most pressing concerns this year are restrictions on shipping and direct sales to retailers. Ms. Forge and Janna Dunbar from the Department of Commerce Agriculture Products Development Division answered committee questions. (Attachment 3)

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting of the House Agriculture Committee is scheduled for January 30, 2006.