

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Johnson at 3:30 p.m. on March 11, 2002, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

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

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Jamie Clover Adams, Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture
Tracy Streeter, Executive Director, State Conservation Commission
Richard Jones, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts
John Kabus, CWDAK Legislative Committee Chairman & Shawnee County Noxious Weed Director
Mike Beam, Governmental Affairs Staff, Kansas Livestock Association
Leslie Kaufman, Associate Director, Public Policy Division, Kansas Farm Bureau
Steven Graham, Assistant to Dr. Marc Johnson, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Director of K-State Research and Extension (written only)
Clint Riley, Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks

Hearing on SB 548 - Control and eradication of sericea lespedeza

Chairman Johnson opened the hearing on **SB 548**. Raney Gilliland explained that effective July 1, 2002, through June 30, 2005, **SB 548** would (1) permit the Secretary of Agriculture to designate any county as a sericea lespedeza disaster area to provide for the control and eradication within that county; (2) give specific authority to the conservation districts in the state to control and eradicate sericea lespedeza in those counties within the district where a disaster has been declared; and (3) permit monies distributed from the state to conservation districts to be used for the control and eradication of sericea lespedeza on both public and private lands in areas declared as a disaster. Other amendments in the bill are technical in nature.

Jamie Clover Adams, Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, appeared in support of **SB 548** to require the department to develop the criteria to be used to declare counties sericea lespedeza disaster areas. She explained that this proposal would provide landowners in highly infested parts of the state an opportunity to obtain cost-share assistance to contain this invasive weed. The proposal could also provide a mechanism to obtain federal funds should any be made available to address invasive plants and pests. The Secretary submitted a technical amendment to **SB 548** to delete the words "and direction" on page 1, line 41, of the bill. (Attachment 1)

Tracy Streeter, Executive Director, State Conservation Commission, appeared in support of **SB 548** and reported on the results of an informal survey of 20 county conservation districts in southeast Kansas regarding their role in addressing sericea lespedeza. He indicated that initial program and policy development costs could be absorbed by the agency, however, implementation would require additional funding. (Attachment 2)

Richard Jones, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts, testified in support of **SB 548** stating that Conservation Districts are the natural resource experts at the local level. Conservation Districts in southeast Kansas are especially interested in controlling or eradicating sericea lespedeza. He believes a new source of funding should be made available for this program. (Attachment 3)

John Kabus, CWDAK Legislative Committee Chairman & Shawnee County Noxious Weed Director, appeared in support of **SB 548** that could supply needed help if federal resources become available. The CWDAK requested that language be added to **SB 548** to require the Department of Agriculture to communicate with the Board of County Commissioners of any county prior to designating their county a sericea lespedeza disaster area. (Attachment 4)

Mike Beam, Governmental Affairs Staff, Kansas Livestock Association, offered support for **SB 548**. He

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noted that several bills are pending in Congress to provide funds for invasive weed species control programs. **SB 548** would provide a state-local program that could quickly and efficiently administer federal monies should they become available through the passage of federal legislation. (Attachment 5)

Leslie Kaufman, Associate Director, Public Policy Division, Kansas Farm Bureau, presented testimony in support of **SB 548**. She reported that **SB 548** is compatible with KFB's policy position on noxious weed control and represents a commitment by the state to help access funding and allow for the granting of funds for addressing sericea lespedeza infestations. (Attachment 6)

There being no opponents, Chairman Johnson closed the hearing on **SB 548**.

Hearing, discussion and action on Sub SB 556 - Sericea lespedeza control and eradication research and demonstration efforts

The Chairman opened the hearing on **Sub SB 556**. Raney Gilliland explained that this bill would require the Secretary of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Secretary of Wildlife and Parks, to designate a parcel of land as a research area to study and demonstrate methods of controlling or eradicating sericea lespedeza. The parcel would be designated on land managed by the KDWP at Toronto Lake. The two secretaries would have the authority to request assistance from any federal, state, or local authority; any public or private university or other research institution; any business organization; or any individual. The provisions of the bill would sunset on June 30, 2007.

Steven Graham, Assistant to Dr. Marc Johnson, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Director of K-State Research and Extension, submitted written testimony in support of **Sub SB 556**. With his testimony he included a copy of the recent research update by Dr. Walt Fick entitled "Sericea Lespedeza Management and Control Project." (Attachment 7)

Jamie Clover Adams, Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, appeared in support of **Sub SB 556** stating that all parties should work together to coordinate, enhance, and continue sericea lespedeza control efforts. (Attachment 1)

Clint Riley, Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks, testified in support of **Sub SB 556** to establish a research and experiment station at Toronto State Park to study the control and eradication of sericea lespedeza. (Attachment 8)

Mike Beam, Governmental Affairs Staff, Kansas Livestock Association, appeared in support of **Sub SB 556** to develop a research and experiment station at Toronto State Park with the focus on sericea lespedeza control. (Attachment 5)

Leslie Kaufman, Associate Director, Public Policy Division, Kansas Farm Bureau, testified in support of **Sub SB 556** to designate of an area at Toronto State Park to further research into control procedures for addressing sericea lespedeza infestations. (Attachment 6)

As there were no opponents, the Chairman closed the hearing and opened discussion on **Sub SB 556**. Representative Compton moved to recommend **Sub SB 556** favorable for passage. Seconded by Representative Feuerborn, the motion carried.

Discussion and action on SB 548 - Control and eradication of sericea lespedeza

Representative Freeborn moved to amend SB 548 as requested by the Secretary of Agriculture by striking the words "and direction" on page 1, line 41, of the bill. Seconded by Representative Schwartz, the motion carried.

Representative Thimesch moved to amend SB 548 on page 1, line 35, after "Commencing on July 1, 2002, and ending on June 30, 2005," by adding the words "upon request of the Board of County Commissioners of any county." The motion was seconded by Representative Ostmeyer. After much discussion, the motion failed.

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Representative Larkin moved to amend **SB 548** to require the Secretary of Agriculture to consult with the Board of County Commissioners of any county prior to designating the county a sericea lespedeza disaster area. Also, pursuant to declaration of such designation, the Board of County Commissioners could adopt a resolution to opt out of such designation. The motion was seconded by Representative Thimesch.

A request to divide the amendment was made by Representative Feuerborn. The Chairman allowed the division.

Representative Larkin, seconded by Representative Schwartz, moved to amend **SB 548** to require the Secretary of Agriculture to consult with the Board of County Commissioners of any county prior to designating the county a sericea lespedeza disaster area. The motion carried.

Representative Larkin, seconded by Representative Thimesch, moved to amend **SB 548** to allow the Board of County Commissioners of any county, pursuant to being declared a sericea lespedeza disaster area, to adopt a resolution to opt out of such designation. The motion failed.

Representative Larkin moved to recommend **SB 548**, as amended, favorable for passage. Seconded by Representative Feuerborn, the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2002.