

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Powell at 9:00 a.m. on February 8, 2011, in Room 783 in the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

- Representative Bob Grant - Excused
- Representative Kyle Hoffman - Excused
- Representative Michael Peterson - Excused

Committee staff present:

- Sean Ostrow, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
- Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
- Michael Wales, Kansas Legislative Research Department
- Kay Scarlett, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

- Jerry Miller, President, Kansas Meat Goat Association, Arlington, Kansas (written only)
- Erica Holmes, St. John, Kansas
- Noah Goddard, Purebred Nubian Goats, Grade A Dairy and Cheese Plant, LLC, Lecompton, KS
- Karen Mauk, Elk Valley Farm, Longton, Kansas
- Kevin Wray, CLF Ranch, Incorporated, Howard, Kansas
- Vanessia Ochs, Double O Ranch, Ottawa, Kansas
- Claudia Williams, Herington, Kansas (written only)
- Mike Hoover, Abilene, Kansas (written only)
- Heather Hoover, Abilene, Kansas (written only)
- JaelAnn Hoover, Abilene, Kansas (written only)
- Sharon Kent, Wakefield, Kansas (written only)

Others attending:

See attached list.

Hearing on: HB 2099 – Creation of the Kansas goat council.

Chairman Powell opened the hearing on **HB 2099**. Raney Gilliland reviewed the state's history in regard to agriculture production promotion beginning in 1957 with the Kansas Wheat Commission and reviewed the provisions of this legislation to establish the Kansas Goat Council.

Representative Joe Seiwert reported that Jerry Miller, President of the Kansas Meat Goat Association, had requested this bill, but was not able to be present today. Mr. Miller did provide written testimony outlining possible amendments:

- Rewrite Section 1. (a) (1) stating that all Kansas Goat Council members do not all have be active members of the Kansas Meat Goat Association. KMGA is willing to provide up to 3 members minimum for the council. KMGA shall be responsible to find non-members to serve on the Kansas Goat Council.
- Change Section 1. (a) (10) (c) An assessment to be set by the council at not more than \$.50 per head for each goat sold in Livestock Sale Barns, producers that sell 25 head or more per sale privately for slaughter transaction for each goat of all classes shall be imposed on the seller at the time of delivery of the goat to the purchaser who shall deduct the assessment from the price paid to the seller at the time of sale. If the seller sells, ships 25 head or more for slaughter or otherwise disposes of goats to a purchaser outside the state of Kansas, the seller shall deduct the assessment from the amount received from the sale. Any goat owned less than 30 days or any goat less than 30 days of age, any goat that is sold for showing only, any goat sold for breeding purposes private treaty shall be exempt from such assessment. (Attachment 1)

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee at 9:00 a.m. on February 8, 2011, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

Erica Holmes, daughter of Representative Mitch Holmes and a goat breeder from St. John, Kansas, appeared in opposition to **HB 2099** to establish a fee-funded Kansas Goat Council for the purpose of goat marketing development. She encouraged the committee to oppose this legislation for bigger, more expensive government. ([Attachment 2](#))

Noah Goddard, Purebred Nubian Dairy Goats and Grade A Dairy and Cheese Plant, LLC, Lecompton, Kansas, testified in opposition to **HB 2099**. He believes this is an ill-conceived bill with too few goat breeders consulted during the planning phase. The Kansas Meat Goat Association (KMGA) is the only group represented in this legislation, and if it were to become law, it would be administered entirely by a council appointed or elected by the KMGA. He didn't believe the marketing development, through research, education, or promotion provision was necessary with the availability of the internet. ([Attachment 3](#))

Karen Mauk, Elk Valley Farm in Longton, Kansas, appeared in opposition to **HB 2099** as neither American Dairy Goat Association (ADGA) members nor any of the independent farms were included in the formulation of this bill. After polling various dairy, fiber, and pack goat breeders, she reported that none of them were in favor of this bill as it stands now. She was particularly opposed to the severity of the penalty provision in this legislation. Elizabeth Readinger, Cross Roads End Acres, Fort Scott, Kansas, and Audra Tropser, Oakbucket Farm, offered comments included with her testimony. ([Attachment 4](#))

Kevin Wray, Secretary-Treasurer, CLF Ranch, Incorporated, Howard, Kansas, testified in firm opposition to **HB 2099** saying that as presented, the bill does not clearly define the objectives, purposes, and methods of the Kansas Goat Council it creates. The markets for commercial meat goat producers are well established and very well defined. A legislatively established Kansas Goat Council is highly unlikely to change or improve those markets. The legislation also creates more administrative regulation and compliance costs for goat producers, brokers, and buyers of goats. ([Attachment 5](#))

Vanessia Ochs, Double O Ranch, Ottawa, Kansas, testified in opposition to **HB 2099**. She said there is no clearly stated purpose or objective for the Kansas Goat Council. It appears to simply be a move toward more government, more bureaucracy, and more profit out of the pockets of individuals who do the hard work of raising livestock. ([Attachment 6](#))

Written testimony in opposition to **HB 2099** was submitted by: Claudia Williams, Herington, Kansas, ([Attachment 7](#)); Mike Hoover, Abilene, Kansas, ([Attachment 8](#)); Heather Hoover, Abilene, Kansas, ([Attachment 9](#)); JaelAnn Hoover, Abilene, Kansas, ([Attachment 10](#)); and Sharon Kent, Wakefield, Kansas. ([Attachment 11](#))

Chairman Powell closed the hearing on **HB 2099**.

The meeting adjourned at 10:23 a.m. The next meeting of the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee is scheduled for February 9, 2011.