

Approved: 2-19-93
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson David Corbin at 10:00 a.m. on February 17, 1993 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Jill Wolters, Revisor of Statutes
Lila McClafin, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Mike Beam, Kansas Livestock Association
Marty Vanier, Committee of Farm Organizations
Dan Walker, DVM, Kansas Animal Health Department
Teresa Arnold, Kansas Animal Health Department

The Chair opened the hearing on SB 247 - concerning livestock; relating to the branding.

Mike Beam said there are some advantages to this type of branding and explained the process (Attachment 1).

Marty Vanier explained how the scanning process is used for identification versus branding.

Dr. Walker and Teresa Arnold said at the present the process of freeze branding is used mostly by horse owners, and it is becoming more popular. The downsize regarding this type of branding is in some instances it can be altered, and an example of that was given.

Staff suggested several technical amendments, and they were adopted by committee consent. A motion was made by Senator Sallee to recommend the bill favorably as amended. Senator Wisdom seconded. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Senator Frahm to adopt the minutes of February 11 and 16. Seconded by Senator Sallee. Motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 1993. The meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

GUEST LIST

COMMITTEE: Senate Agriculture

DATE: 2-16-93

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February 17, 1993

TO: Senate Agriculture Committee
Senator David Corbin, Chairman

FROM: Mike Beam, Executive Secretary, Cow-Calf/Stocker Division

RE: SB 247, Legislation to Recognize Freeze Branding
as a Legal Registered Brand

The Kansas Livestock Association supports SB 247. This bill amends the definition statutes in our brand laws to recognize "cryogenic branding" as a permanent identifying mark that may be registered with the Brand Division of the Kansas Animal Health Department. The use of liquid nitrogen or dry ice for branding is commonly referred to as "freeze branding" by most animal scientists, veterinarians and producers. The process involves an extreme cold temperature to kill the pigment producing cells and causes the hair to turn white where the brand configuration is applied.

Horse owners are using freeze branding as a herd identification tool. Cattle ranchers are utilizing freeze brands for individual identification.

There are some advantages to a properly applied freeze brand. First, it can be more legible than hot iron brands. Scientist also claim it causes less stress when applied, and some experts claim there is less hide damage from freeze brands compared to hot iron brands.

I know the Animal Health Department has received several inquiries over the years, primarily from horse owners, to allow them to register the brand with their department. It's the livestock commissioner's interpretation that in less we amend the definition of brand in the statute, (KSA 47-414), the agency is unable to recognize and issue a registration certificate for their brand.

Mr. Chairman and committee members, we support the legislation and would be happy to respond to any questions or concerns. Thank you.

*Senate Ag
2-17-93
attachment 1*