

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.

HOUSE AG & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
GUEST LIST

DATE: FEBRUARY 8, 2011

[illegible]

**Joe Seiwert**

## POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS

**From:** "Jerry Miller" <jerry-miller@emypeople.net>  
**To:** <joeseiwert@onemain.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 04, 2011 11:16 PM  
**Subject:** HB 2099 Amendment

Joe Siewert

Amendment for HB2099

The intent for the Checkoff is primarily targeted toward all goats sold for slaughter. Which basically targets Livestock Auctions who sell goats, and large stocker feeder producers who sell large volume privately directly to order buyers for slaughter.

The HB2099 puts a lot of power toward KMGA for control, Sec. 1 Par. (1) we ask that the Kansas Goat Council members do not all have to be active members of KMGA. KMGA is willing to provide up to 3 members minimum for the goat council. KMGA shall be responsible to find non-members to serve on the Kansas goat council.

Sec. 10 Par. (c) Please change- 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".

Call me anytime for proper clarification 620-899-0519

Sincerely Yours  
Jerry Miller

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Erica Holmes and I'm a daughter of Representative Mitch Holmes. I am eighteen years old and I have been involved with goats since I was seven. My parents bought our first goat in September of 1999, and my older sister and I have been practically in charge of managing our goats since a few years after that as their numbers grew. Ten years ago in 2001 I became the owner of the very first goat of my own, and in 2007, at fourteen years, I began my own goat business. As I designed and maintained a website to advertise my stock, my parents also put me in charge of marketing their goats, and I've been market manager ever since.

As a goat breeder, I am against House Bill 2099 which establishes a fee funded goat council in the state of Kansas for the purpose of goat marketing development.

Quote by founding father John Adams: "Government is instituted for the common good; for the protection, safety, prosperity, and happiness of the people; and not for profit, honor, or private interest of any one man, family, or class of men;"

It is not the government's job to involve itself in private business because the government is not a business entity.

Quote by founding father James Wilson: "Government ... should be formed to secure and enlarge the exercise of the natural rights of its members; and every government which has not this in view as its principal object is not a government of the legitimate kind."

Private business is to be left to the citizens. The goat council would have seven, tax funded members, and the inventiveness of seven private goat breeders or producers is at least equal to theirs. Instead of there being seven private goat breeders, however, there are hundreds of people raising and marketing their own animals. With hundreds of minds to come up with answers, we have an advantage, and are linked nationally rather than confining ourselves to the state. We use websites, forums, magazines, and forwards lists to share these ideas, and it doesn't cost us one cent above that which we choose to pay. One of the last things we need is another tax for more government. All we want the government to do is "provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity".

Quote by economist Bob McEwan: "The greater the government, the greater the poverty. The greater the freedom, the greater the wealth."

I would encourage you to oppose this bill for bigger, more expensive government.

Noah and Sue Goddard  
Purebred Nubian Dairy Goats  
Grade A Dairy and Cheese Plant, LLC  
1801 East 335 Road  
Lecompton, Kansas 66050  
785-887-6083 or 816-804-9532  
[nubians@earthlink.net](mailto:nubians@earthlink.net)  
[www.goddardfarm.com](http://www.goddardfarm.com)

**Good Morning**

**My name is Noah Goddard**

**I want to thank the committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources for permitting me to testify concerning HB2099**

**Sue and I live on 15 acres in northwest Douglas county on 40 highway about half way between Lawrence and Topeka.**

**We have a herd of Nubian Dairy Goats and have sold goat milk and milk products, as well as breeding stock and semen sales for 25 years.**

**During that time we sold raw ungraded milk off the farm pursuant to the raw milk exception to the Kansas Dairy Law.**

**More recently, we have built a grade A dairy and cheese plant where are licensed by the Department of Agriculture to produce, bottle, manufacture, and market, fluid goat milk, goat cheese, and yogurt.**

**We also market purebred breeding stock and semen Nation-wide.**

**I am speaking in opposition to HB2099 because it is, in my own view, an ill-conceived bill.**

**My first objection is that too few goat breeders were consulted during the planning phase and not many knew of the bill until recent days, about one week ago, after it had already been submitted for this committee's consideration.**

It seems to me that all, or as many as is feasible, who will be impacted and required to obey and be governed by a law should be considered during the process.

1. HB 2099 seems to be totally for the benefit of and controlled by the Kansas meat Goat Association (KMGA) which, according to their web site, has approximately 70 members. According to the 2010 Membership Directory of the American Dairy Goat Association (ADGA) there are 102 adult members and 37 youth members in Kansas. While the exact number may not be known, some estimates place the number of smaller family milker and 4-H herds at four or five times the number of registered dairy herds in the state. Then there are smaller groups that make up cart goats, hair and fiber goats, pack goats and pets. KMGA is the only group represented in HB2099.

2. If this bill were to become law it would be administered entirely by a council appointed or elected by the Kansas Meat Goat Association, that's lopsided!

See page lines 5-6, HB2099:

(1) The council shall consist of seven members who shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Kansas meat goat association.

See page lines 9-11, HB2099:

Vacancies which may occur shall be filled for unexpired terms by the board of directors of the Kansas meat goat association from among the producers in the state.

Page 1, lines 26-28 says: The elections [of council members] shall be held at an open session to all goat producers at the annual meeting of the Kansas meat goat association.

3. Page 1, lines 29-30 says the secretary or his designee shall serve as ex officio nonvoting member of the board.

Page 4, line 25, Definition (5) "Secretary" means the secretary of agriculture.

We operate a Grade A goat dairy where we are licensed to bottle and sell milk, manufacture and sell cheese and yogurt. We are inspected by the dairy

division milk inspectors which are part of the department of agriculture. The Dairy Inspectors pick us to death, even to the extent of interfering with production. We don't need any additional oversight by the secretary of agriculture via HB2099.

4. page 2, lines 16, (1) Marketing development, through research, education or promotion. Page 2, line 312 also mentions, research, education, or promotion.

### EDUCATION

We do a lot of education through networking on the Internet and it doesn't cost anything. So there is no need for the checkoff funding contemplated by HB2099. Members of these groups share many educational ideas and concepts on a daily ongoing basis on topics including, vaccines, medications, disbudding, feed mix, worming, hoof trimming, shelter, water, minerals, hay feeders, coccidia prevention, mastitis prevention, bottle babies, birthing problems, hay quality , and much more.

I run all of the Yahoo Internet goat discussion groups listed below and members post pictures and information to the photo sections and the files sections of these groups for future reference which serves as sort of goat management library.

I have posted 13 pictures of what internal parasites look like under the microscope to the files section of each of these groups so that the list members can have an instant reference on parasites that attack their goats.

All goat breeders can participate in self directed learning on the Internet by conducting a Google search of just about any management or medical topic concerning goats.

Local clubs and prominent breeders sponsor seminars and workshops, often free of charge. Our web site has some 37 pages much of which contains educational materials.

Kansas-Goat-Breeders@yahoogroups.com 144 members

BASICCHEESEMAKING@yahoogroups.com 1313 members

**DISTRICT5NEWS@yahoogroups.com 548 members**

**BENEFITS-OF-RAW-GOAT-MILK@yahoogroups.com 336 members**

**KIDDINGTIME@yahoogroups.com 94 members**

**LIVING\_ON\_A\_FEW\_ACRES@yahoogroups.com 132 members**

**Recorded\_Grade\_Goats@yahoogroups.com 33 members**

**ManagingDairyGoats@yahoogroups.com 339 members**

**ArkansasDairyGoats@yahoogroups.com 75 members**

**LouisianaDairyGoats@yahoogroups.com 32 members**

**MississippiDairyGoats@yahoogroups.com 36 members**

**MissouriDairyGoats@yahoogroups.com 118 members**

**OklahomaDairyGoats@yahoogroups.com 122 members**

**IowaDairyGoats@yahoogroups.com 58 members**

**Nigerian\_Dwarf\_Dairy\_Goats@yahoogroups.com 38 members**

**Nubian\_Dairy\_Goats@yahoogroups.com 415 members**

### **PROMOTION**

**Just about every goat herd owner today has Internet access and a web site. goats are not sold by bill board or television advertising. We have a Yahoo web site that costs us \$114.00 a year and it is updated regularly as needed. We do no other advertising or promotions.**

**We average more than 3,000 visits a month to our web site. Web advertising and promotion is the future of promoting goats and goat products and it is here today. Individual breeders can make their own web sites because you no longer have to know code to do the job.**

The check off revenue contemplated for advertising and promotion in HB2099 is simply not needed.

PROMOTION - CONTINUED

ON THE KANSAS MEAT GOAT ASSOCIATION WEB SITE, KANSAS MEAT GOAT CHECK OFF PAGE, THE PARAGRAPH TITLED,

PRODUCTION, MARKETING, PROMOTION AND EDUCATION,

THIS STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

"The Kansas Goat industry is growing. Sales of goats in Kansas have increased 483% since 2001."

That is a phenomenal increase! It is an increase that suggests we need not enact a law to take money out of the pocket of every 4-H kid in the state, through a sale barn checkoff, who has worked hard during the spring and summer to raise and sell a goat kid or two at the local auction barn to help pay for his trip to summer camp or for school clothes or for his college education.

Surely, Mr. Miller, President of the Association, (KMGA), is aware of this phenomenal sales increase because right under this paragraph on their web site it says if you have any questions about the checkoff please feel free to ask and it lists Jerry Miller's email address, [jerry-miller@emypeople.net](mailto:jerry-miller@emypeople.net) as the contact person.

GRANTS:

On page 2, line 19, of HB2099, under (b), (3) it contemplates accepting grants. In an email message from Mr. Jerry Miller, dated February 02, 2011 at 10:P34 P.M. he wrote, "We can have an amendment for this bill to exclude the dairy goat breeder who sells privately. But by doing that it would bar any dairy goat producer to receive any grants that may be available. Nor could any research, promotion of milk and cheese products be promoted."

Mr. Miller is either being untruthful or he simply isn't informed. Grant opportunities are not something that is esoteric, they are available to everyone.

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) grants are available to any qualified individual.

**We don't need a state law to apply for and receive grant funding for goat-related projects. Goat clubs and individuals can qualify for these grants and in some cases they make a combination of grants and low interest loans.**

**I have included below a copy of the SARE application information for your review that is available to all goat owners & can be downloaded from the Internet.**

## **How to Apply for a SARE Grant**

### **Step. 1:**

Obtain a copy of a SARE call for proposals from the appropriate [region](#) and ask to be put on the regional mailing list for future calls.

### **Step. 2:**

Determine the relevant deadline for the grant program(s) from which you seek funding.

### **Step. 3:**

Contact potential collaborators and develop proposal ideas. Look at similar SARE funded projects on the [national database](#) and contact your regional SARE office if you would like reports that interest you.

### **Step. 4:**

Submit your proposal, following all guidelines specified by the region, prior to the specified deadline.

### [How to Write a Proposal](#)

### **See Also:**

- [Types of SARE Grants](#)

### **Calls for Proposals**

[North Central Region SARE](#)

[Northeast Region SARE](#)

[Southern Region SARE](#)

[Western Region SARE](#)

## CHECKOFF ASSESSMENT

HB2099, Page 2, line 42-43 and page 3, lines 1-6, suggests \$.50 per head for every animal sold with the ability of an arbitrary increases each year to be paid in to the state to be used by the Kansas Goat Council. This section of the proposed bill also requires the checkoff amount to be collected by the seller on all out-of-state sales .

### 1. Objection - an unfair tax

I object to this on the grounds that it is taxation without representation.

### 2. Objection - HB2099 is over burdensome - extra records keeping

All of our breeding stock sales are out-of-state. To document sales in such a way that they can be verified will require a lot of extra records keeping to demonstrate the precise amount owed each month in checkoffs. This is an over burdensome expense that will exceed the fifty cent checkoff amount.

The documentation required will also overburden the sale barn facilities and the seller will ultimately be charged a higher service fee there as well, which is not fair.

### 3. OBJECTION - INTRUSIVE

I also object to having to provide this sales documentation because it will reveal to others, including the Council, our complete client list which is proprietary and confidential and one for which we have worked hard to develop over the years. Here HB2099 would work a real hardship on all goat breeders who ship breeding stock.

## GOAT PRODUCT SALES

Page 2, lines 42-43, and page 3, lines 1-5 talks about sales and selling. Then page 4, line 22, -24, definition (4) "Sale or Sold" means a transaction in which goats or their products are transferred to a purchaser for full or partial consideration.

We have semen stored at a professional semen storage facility in Iowa that also ships it for us as it is sold. Based on the above sections of HB2099, are we going to have to keep records of all semen sales and pay the checkoff on each sale? Or each straw of semen sold?

We also manufacture cheese, yogurt, and bottle and sell fluid milk to various restaurants, supermarkets, specialty food stores, and individuals. Will we have to keep records on all individuals sales of products as suggested in the list of definitions? If so, this will very quickly become a records keeping nightmare.

I don't believe the Kansas Meat Goat Association or a goat council appointed by the KMGGA has any right to assess my goat dairy operation a fee so they can have money to spend for items that, in my own view, are really not needed.

My final thought is that we don't own these little critters we call goats, they belong to God, and we are only their custodians. We have a duty to be good custodians. I don't believe that HB2099 will do anything to help us to be better custodians.

Thank You,

Noah L. Goddard

Letters in protest of the fifty cent check off for all goats sold in the state of Kansas (HB 2099)

I am contacting you in regards to proposed HB 2099. The proposed bill formulated by the president of the Kansas Meat Goat Association. It calls for a 50 cent check off for every goat sold in or out of the state of Kansas (not just meat goats) at a sale barn. The penalty for not submitting this money is fines or jail time! The money collected goes to a newly formed Kansas Goat Council who will have total control as to how these funds are distributed. The goat council will be entirely made up of members of the KMGa, and appointed by them as well. You must be a member of this organization to serve on the council. The KMGa has around 70 members currently. The American Dairy Goat Association has 139 members in Kansas in addition to the hundreds of small farms that are also located here that are not being represented by any associations. Neither the ADGA members nor any of the independent farms were included in the formulation of this HB 2099. After polling the various dairy, fiber, and pack goat breeders, none of them were in favor of this bill as it stands now.

I am asking you to do everything in your power to prevent this terribly biased bill from getting made into a functioning law. This is not a matter of money, but rather a matter of taxation without representation that has so many people concerned. There is a proper way to go about raising funds for goat research and promotion without stepping on the robbing those who will gain little if nothing from this unfair proposition. The very idea that anyone could be arrested for not paying this check off is ridiculous at best. Without showing fairness to all the goat producers in the State this bill must not be passed into law. There is no such thing as hammering out the details after the fact, as the written word of the law can and will be taken literally. It must be fixed or eliminated, but whatever the case this bill should not be passed.

Elk Valley Farm  
Karen Mauk  
809 Montgomery  
Longton, Kansas 67352

I have 9 goats getting ready to kid. If they all have twins and I sell all 18 kids, plus I sell 3 milking does (assuming this passes), then I will need to pay \$10.50 this year, and file in every month that a goat is sold. How many other goat owners are out there like me? I bet there are a lot.

How much is it going to cost to process my \$10.50 in payments spread over all of the months that I sell a goat, and the payments from all the other small farms? It is ludicrous as well as being a huge disservice to the Kansas taxpayer without ever getting into the lack of representation for the dairy and other non-meat goats.

CrossRoads End Acres  
Elizabeth Readinger  
2604 Locust Rd.  
Fort Scott, Kansas 66701

I am not sure what exactly to say other than I think this bill needs to be thrown out. I don't mind the .50 price on auction animals, but I don't think it should apply to private sales. I want to know why we need a Kansas Goat Association, what is it going to do for Kansas breeders, why the need to pay .50 a head/sale, what the money is going to go for, and why they don't particularly want dairy goat breeders opinions? I want to know all of this before they even consider drafting a new version of the bill. When (or if) they draft a new bill they need to make certain there is a good cross section of goat people on the council, and that they have clear goals in regards to where the money is going as well as what they precisely they intend to do or improve with it. I want to know that its not just a bunch of cronies getting together to collect money just to line their pockets or to increase profits in just one area of goat production.

Oakbucket Farm  
Audra Tropser

**In the Kansas House of Representatives  
Before the House Standing Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Topeka, Kansas  
February 8, 2011 at 9:00 AM**

**In Re: Committee hearing on HB 2099 - Creation of the Kansas goat council**

**Written Testimony of Kevin J. Wray, Secretary/Treasurer  
CLF Ranch, Incorporated (an Authorized Kansas Family Farm Corporation)  
2382 Native Rd.  
Howard, Kansas 67349**

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice-chairman, Mr. Ranking Member, and honorable committee members,

Thank you for providing the opportunity to participate in this legislative process. I am testifying as an officer of and on behalf of CLF Ranch, Incorporated. CLF is an Authorized Kansas Family Farm Corporation engaged in the commercial production of meat goats within Kansas. Our business model calls for production and sale of meat goats in substantial numbers into the national commercial meat goat market through sales at local sale barns, out of state sale barns or direct to order buyers regionally. We also offer direct to consumer sales. We do not breed or raise goats for show or for sale to show oriented buyers. We are not engaged in the production of expensive, national breed association registered goats. Genetics are very important in any production program, and we strive to reproduce and enhance genetic traits that result in quality, market desired offspring. We do not participate in the breeder or show goat markets. Those markets are simply too narrow and limited for our purposes. We raise goats for a market that buys them for meat consumption. The only papers our goats have are farm records and sale barn receipts.

We appear here today in firm opposition to HB 2099. We believe this bill is problematic for several reasons. We believe it is ill-conceived, fraught with anti-free market concepts, and may well be a subterfuge designed to advance the agenda of a limited group of people.

1. HB 2099, as presented, 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 Goat Council is highly unlikely to change or improve those markets.
2. HB 2099, as presented, deals primarily with distributing money taken from private citizens and businesses statewide, under penalty of law, giving that money to and extending privileges to a very narrow and select group of people. Namely, the Kansas Meat Goat Association (KMGA) or its' designees. We do not believe that private association is geared toward the interests of the majority of Kansas goat producers. Neither does the membership of the KMGA represent a significant percentage of Kansas goat producers. To legislatively authorize the confiscation of monies, time, and compliance costs from all those involved in the production, transfer, sale and distribution of goats or goat products only to give the money taken to members of a non-representative group is, we opine, unfair on its' face. Even if all the monies taken are refunded, the compliance and record keeping costs remain essentially as non-reimbursed costs to the producer.

House Ag & Natural Resources  
February 8, 2011  
Attachment 5

3. Review of the KMGGA website lists only 22 members as of two days ago. We think that the KMGGA, in particular, falls far short of representing anywhere near the majority interests of Kansas meat goat producers. They surely don't represent ours. Additionally they don't appear to represent any interests of dairy or fur goat producers at all. This hardly qualifies the KMGGA, or its' membership to have the power or influence afforded it in HB 2099.
4. Commercial meat goat operations sell largely into a national market via sale barn auctions across the state. These producers contribute a food product to an increasing ethnic U.S. population and an export market, primarily into Mexico. Nothing in HB 2099 appears to address the needs of these operations by the newly created Goat Council. Auction prices won't be going up as a result of HB 2099. Nor will input costs be going down.
5. We do not believe that there is nearly enough end market demand in Kansas to absorb a significant portion of Kansas meat goat production. Actually that's good, as the lion's share of revenue generated by Kansas meat goat producers is new revenue being brought into the Kansas economy from outside Kansas. HB 2099 diverts part of that revenue and directs it to uses that do not appear to hold any substantial benefit for the majority of contributing producers.
6. Refunds notwithstanding, HB 2099 creates a forced contribution by the seller of fifty cents per head sold and gives that money to this non-representative Council taking it temporarily out of the producer's hands, interest free. Further it creates fines and jail penalties for non-compliance with a 'voluntary' program. We ultimately wonder if this process would satisfy the takings clause of the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Even if it would, in private treaty sales, is this Bill really enforceable? If so, how? With compliance costs likely exceeding any increased producer revenues or benefits and with enforcement difficult (if not impossible), we suggest there will be little compliance incentive between individuals in private treaty sales. Virtually no enforcement is possible because of the very nature of private sales. Such sales aren't reported on a 'by head' basis anywhere that we know of that could be reviewed for enforcement absent a warrant or subpoena for private records. The end result is that private treaty sales, absent an honest established broker, would not be given the same scrutiny as an auction sale. The same applies to sales out of state. Unequal treatment?
7. With auction market sales, enforcement is possible, but at what cost? Administrative, overhead, enforcement, verification and refund costs will severely limit the availability of funds for the still non-defined goals of the Council. Consider, if every goat believed to be in the state by the Kansas Ag Department were sold at auction, *twice* (once to a Kansas auction house account and then to an out of state buyer), the total checkoff revenue would be less than \$50,000. That won't pay for much. The example assumes no producer refunds are paid. The checkoff 'contribution' *is* going to have to go up substantially at the first opportunity. Yet more negative impact on the cash flows of producers in difficult times.
8. HB 2099 also creates more administrative regulation and compliance costs for goat producers and brokers and buyers of goats. Record keeping, rebate requests, postage, and labor costs of participation and compliance seem to fully outweigh the poorly defined benefits of this program. These costs will impact both sellers and brokers. Brokers will most likely increase sale commissions to defer their compliance costs. Thus, sellers will ultimately bear the brunt of the unintended negative economic effect. In our case, it could mean fewer seasonal part time jobs or lower wages on our ranch. I'm sure others will face the same painful choices. Yet

another cost to the producer. Aren't equipment, feed, medicine, transportation, commission, income tax, payroll tax, and death loss costs enough? The HB 2099 Goat Council is simply not economically responsible.

9. If sufficient revenues are eventually generated and retained by the Council, what is their function? To increase consumer awareness of and demand for goat meat, dairy and fur products? Significant increases in end user demand for goat meat, dairy and fur products in Kansas will likely become a very costly marketing effort. We seriously doubt the success factor. State Fair booths or 30 second public service ads won't sell much goat milk or meat. Goat health, breeding and care research is already being done in many venues across the United States. Producer education is readily available from hundreds of web sources (at least one outstanding website right here in Kansas) and various state university resources nationwide. What remains is volume sales and value added marketing. Those should be individual producer projects. If producers want to team up for such efforts, great! Not something for a government mandated program to become involved with in our view.

10. The KMGGA itself appears to cater to a much more limited 'breeder' market. That is to operations who are geared to producing expensive, registered, genetically superior show goats. While important, this market is, by no means, representative of day to day commercial volume goat production businesses. Most highly bred goats don't seem stand up well to the rigors of a volume commercial operation. We suggest that in the near term the show breed producers contribute little to what drives the much larger national commercial meat goat market into which most Kansas meat goat producers likely sell their products. Again, HB 2099 gives control of a Kansas Goat Council to members of a private association that better represents the former, more limited, market. What agenda will KMGGA involvement and control bring to a Kansas Goat Council? Their own website may provide the answer:

*"The Kansas Meat Goat Association has received numerous funding requests for support in the Goat industry including shows, fairs, research etc. As most of you know that KMGGA does not have the funding available to support everything that was requested. In April the KMGGA membership voted to establish an exploratory committee to pursue a Meat Goat check off program in Kansas...What will the check off monies be used for? The check off monies can only be used for purposes that fall within specific areas of production, marketing, promotion and education."*

It would appear that "shows, fairs, research etc." and nondescript "specific areas of production, marketing, promotion and education." are the intent.

And who will define these specific areas of production, marketing, promotion and education? According to HB 2099,

*"5 The council shall consist of seven members who shall be elected  
6 at the annual meeting of the Kansas meat goat association. The board of  
7 directors of the Kansas meat goat association shall act as interim council  
8 members until council members can be elected and qualified. Vacancies  
9 which may occur shall be filled for unexpired terms by the board of  
10 directors of the Kansas meat goat association from among the producers  
11 of the state. Each council member appointed on and after the effective  
12 date of this act, other than a council member appointed to fill a vacancy*

*13 for an unexpired term, shall be elected for a term of four years except that  
14 three of the council members first elected on and after the effective date  
15 of this act shall be elected for a term of two years."*

11. Since the KMGA meetings are exclusively KMGA functions, not well attended by even their own paying membership, it is far more likely that persons with a vested interest in the KMGA (and its' association agenda) will be at the helm for some time. Fair, equitable and without spot of impropriety? We're not convinced.

12. Perhaps the most bothersome part of this is the sausage making involved in pursuing this bill that seems to begin with the bill's initial beneficiaries... the KMGA Board of Directors. In a directors meeting held by teleconference on March 25, 2010. The someone had involved a Farm Bureau representative named Mark Nelson. Mr. Nelson's contribution to the meeting is reflected in publicly posted minutes from that meeting:

*Guest- Mark Nelson, KS Farm Bureau provided report on the out come of the March 19<sup>th</sup> KFB vote for reporting of markets.*

*Mark Nelson gave a report of the study for a " **Goat Check Off**" how it could be an advantage to KMGA and KYMGA and what it would take to make it effective*

*Mark Nelson provided input, including statutory cites for other species check off programs. Suggested to not 'recreate' the wheel, but to fine tune it to fit our specific needs.*

*Mark exited the call.*

An advantage to whom? We were told the advantage was to be for all Kansas goat producers, not KMGA and their youth program.

The move toward a goat checkoff continues with the publicly published minutes of a KMGA membership meeting held on April 23, 2010. The minutes report that 19 members were present at that meeting, representing a quorum (20% minimum according to their By-Laws) of their estimated 70 dues paying members. The motion to pursue a Kansas Meat Goat Check Off was approved by 14 of the 19 members present and privy to the motion. There was no provision for a proxy vote by almost 73% of the members not present on this significant decision. The drive to create what is now before this committee is the result of the voices of 14 people.

Approximately 20% of an organization who's 70 members purported to know and represent the needs and best interests of the entire Kansas goat industry. Kansas meat and dairy goat producers as of January 1, 2010, (according to USDA & Kansas Ag Department Statistics) own and/or control some 45,800+ live meat and dairy goats and kids. This does not include those who raise goats for fur production. We are not convinced the KMGA is really interested in Kansas goat production at large. Our skepticism comes from KMGA facts and meetings. From that April 2010 meeting we read the following:

*" New Business-*

*Goat check off- with discussion of check off fund proposal, a goat commission, proposal 50 cent per head, benefits discussed; voluntary nature of*

*check off, could opt out, benefits discussed along with Farm Bureau's suggestions of how to proceed...*

*Additional discussion- (Name redacted)- concern - not in favor of it stated first- but if KMGGA decides to do so as an association, then need to make sure not making more enemies than friends, need persons with finesse, speaking abilities...*

*Point of order- motion on the floor- vote taken Motion carried 14 in favor, 3 opposed - pursuit of development of Ks Meat Goat Check off; (2 abstain);"*

(Source: KMGGA website at <http://www.kmggaonline.net/meetingminutes.htm>, as obtained on February 6, 2011)

Please note two things. First is the "need to make sure not making more enemies than friends, need persons with finesse, speaking abilities", and second are the non specified "Farm Bureau's suggestions of how to proceed". Articulate advocates are a good thing, but if one seems to know a course of action may 'make more enemies than friends' one must wonder about the real intent and effect of the action. Also, Farm Bureau, on their own website hold themselves out as actively involved "policy and political advocacy" for their individual members. They now appear to also provide policy and political advice & guidance for other small, private, non-profit associations who have or want to create legislative agendas. We don't know if the KMGGA is a member of the Farm Bureau

Casting no aspersions whatsoever, this bill was even introduced to the Kansas House by the House member who represents the District of the KMGGA's current President.

From its inception, HB 2099 appears to be, inside out, top to bottom, and front to back, a product **of the KMGGA, by the KMGGA, and for the KMGGA**. At least what remains of the KMGGA.

As of August 2009 the KMGGA website reported 110 members. In the fall of 2010, some 70 members. The current KMGGA website lists 22 members TOTAL as of 2/6/2011. That represents year to year membership losses of 36% growing to 68% and a total shrink in dues paying membership of 80% in the last two years! First, 22 people surely do not represent a statistically significant sampling of goat producers in Kansas. Second, annual dues at KMGGA of \$25.00 creating dues revenues of \$550.00 for calendar year 2011, not a substantial base of experience needed by the proposed goat council. Is this organization and its' leadership really experienced enough and successful at promoting the industry through their existing efforts at KMGGA? Or are they fading fast and looking for ways to breath new life into their organization? Where *will* they find money to do the things that interest *them*? Do those funds have to be in the KMGGA account? Or are there other ways to advance their association agenda? We don't wonder. They have already told us.

To the casual observer taking the information in total, it would appear as if HB 2099 was a thinly veiled attempt to give some form of legitimacy to a failed and dying private organization via legislative fiat and ultimately at the expense of Kansas goat producers from one end of Kansas to the other. Please consider the effects of codifying into law state endorsement, authority, influence, and the placing (if even temporarily) of other peoples money into the hands of individuals who, to date, manage a private, non-profit association that has lost 80% of its' own membership in just the last two years and who now

manages membership revenues that are less than the cost of a single, limited cell phone plan? Have they displayed some unique qualification for this control?

Ladies and gentlemen, the deeper one looks, the uglier some legislative sausage making becomes. Eventually it can become burnt, tasteless and of little or no value. This bill is one such case. Should elements of marketing, research, business education of the endeavors of private sector enterprises really be something that is facilitated under the force of law at the hands of a tiny sampling of people from a dying organization, all funded by government mandate? Or are those elements best left to individual producers and to the free market? We think, in America, the latter is the clear choice. This bill, clearly driven from the start by KMGA, is not something the Kansas goat industry needs or wants. We at CLF Ranch surely don't.

Please don't move forward on yet another government endorsed intrusion that must be passed to determine what's really in it. Defeat House Bill 2099. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin J. Wray', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin J. Wray, Secretary/Treasurer

CLF Ranch, Incorporated  
Frances A. Wray, President  
2382 Native Rd.  
Howard, Kansas 67349  
(620) 374-2551

**RE: HOUSE BILL No. 2099**

Regarding the creation of the Kansas Goat Council

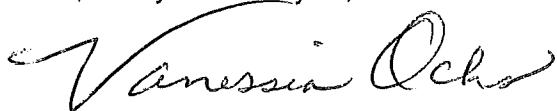
Hearing on February 8, 2011 @ 9:00 a.m., Docking State Office Bldg, Room 783

Mr. Chairman and Members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:

I am Vanessa Ochs, owner & sole proprietor of the Double O Ranch in Franklin County. I strongly oppose this bill for a number of reasons, and appreciate the opportunity to appear before this board today to discuss some of them with you.

- 1) Taxpayers in Kansas, not just those of us raising goats, don't need more government – in fact, we need less, by far. I believe a strong message was sent by voters in the November 2010 elections and we are depending upon our elected officials to scale back the size of government, at every level, beginning now.
- 2) The Kansas Meat Goat Association is an association in name only. With only 22 current members, this organization in no way represents the majority interests of meat goat producers in the state of Kansas. For over a year, KMGa has not been able to get enough members to attend a meeting to have a quorum and conduct it's own business. Per Section 1 (a) (1) of the bill, if the KMGa Board of Directors become the interim council members, they will likely remain so, because no one else belongs to KMGa; they do not represent a significant number of goat producers in the state.
- 3) If this were a "voluntary" check off, why would money be collected at the time of sale and only refunded as much as one year afterward? If it's truly voluntary, one should be able to "opt out" altogether. Otherwise, the council has the use of the producers' money all year, interest free. Fines, penalties, prosecution and possible imprisonment are threatened for noncompliance – how is that "voluntary"?
- 4) Section (6) (b) (2) says the council shall have the duty, power and authority to "find new markets for goats and their meat products". . . we need to hope they don't. US producers cannot begin to supply enough to meet the current demand. In 2007, the United States imported almost 23 million pounds of goat meat from Australia, New Zealand and Mexico – countries where, incidentally, there is no USDA inspection of animals brought to slaughter and no goat check off fees.
- 5) Section (6) (b) (3) says the council will be able "to accept grants and donations". Does that mean individual farms or breeder groups will be competing with the council for those funds, should they choose to pursue them?

There is no clearly stated purpose or objective for the Kansas Meat Goat Council. This 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. In my opinion, a few breeders who are, perhaps, too lazy or disingenuous to market their own animals are looking to the rest of us to do that for them. It is a bad piece of legislation and needs to die here, today. Thank you,



Vanessia Ochs  
Double O Ranch (OOR)  
1550 Rock Creek Road  
Ottawa KS 66067

House Ag & Natural Resources  
February 8, 2011  
Attachment 6

# WRITTEN TESTIMONY

## HOUSE AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Please vote NO on Bill HB2099. The KMGA group is not an organized group capable, in my opinion, of being the committee members. There has been much dissension and arguing within the group and many have resigned. The .50 would put an added burden on the producers who do not need any help with marketing currently. We have raised goats for the last 11 years and have been members of KMGA for a number of years but dropped out about 3 years ago due to the constant bickering among the group. I feel that the majority of goat producers in the state are opposed to the bill as written (in a very generalized format).

Thank you for your consideration.

Claudia Williams  
424 Wind Rd  
Herington, KS 67449

To House Standing Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources Members:

First I want to Thank You for letting me have written testimony concerning House Bill 2099.

I wanted to let you know that I am very concerned about House Bill 2099. The bill is right now is at the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. I am a father of a child goat producer and did not find out about this bill until it was already at this committee. My daughter raises registered goats, show goats, commercial goats and registered Dairy goats. I strongly urge you to do something to stop this bill.

This past summer a fellow house representative, Vern Swanson, watched my daughter show her goats at the Clay Center Fair. Not to brag, but the past few years my daughter has done very well showing and raising her goats.

The proposed bill will greatly hurt my daughter's profits when she shows her goats. She purchases her goats for around \$100 for a sale barn goat and then up to \$5,000 for a middle of the line registered breeding goat. My daughter has even bought semen to better her Boer and Dairy goat herds.

For show goats my daughter spends on average one bag of feed costs \$13.00, if she puts additives in the feed for a better show quality Boer meat goat she pays on average \$85.00 for a twenty five pound bucket of additive; that will feed two goats for two weeks. This bill is proposing to cut into her very narrow profit, if any, on her show goats; by fifty cents a head. On average my daughter spends \$400.00 for one wether goat. Yes, my daughter makes money on her commercial herd, but it helps offset the total show bill.

Dairy goats require a higher ration of feed to produce quality milk that can be drank by consumers. For the most part unfortunately, dairy goats do not have as high of profit at sale barns. The proposed \$.50 a head on goats would cut into her profit margin even more. In 2009 my daughter sold three registered dairy animals that were weaned and on full feed for a total of \$100.00 at a local sale barn. There was a feed bill, a sale barn fee on top of this, and then with this bill it would add a goat check off bill on top. My daughter did not break even on them as it was.

The purposed bill is not a volunteer bill and states: that if a goat seller does not pay the money owed within a few days they can be fined or go to jail. How do I explain to a child that she has to pay this money or get fined and or go to jail? My daughter gets loans from us to help pay her expenses and then pays her bills at the end of the year when she is finished showing her goats.

Furthermore; I have talked to numerous goat producers and some that are even members of the Kansas Meat Goat Association, also known as KMGA, who knew nothing of this bill until it was at the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

Looking over KMGA's minutes I have read that there is much tension and distress amongst the members. After speaking with past and current members I have learned that this organization has been in turmoil since 2000. A current member of KMGA also stated that at least four board members are not going to continue on with their positions and noted some did not finish until the end of their term. This member also stated that membership has been down and it looks like it is down considerable this coming year.

It states on the KMGA website that their annual sale had to be canceled due to the low number of consignments and as an effort to ensure a quality sale for not only the consignors, but those interested buyers as well as the association, the sale has been postponed. With the meat market booming in record prices and the shortage of goats why would you cancel a sale? Why are their low consignments when most of the members own websites state they have goats for sale year round? When asking around it was stated that the KMGA consignment fee is too high, sick goats have been sold, the sale is not publicized enough, and numerous other complaints. This makes me question some of the decision making aspects that KMGA has and is doing.

According to the youth portion of their website It appears as if donates were pulled from KMG. After asking a few KMG members about this it was stated that money was not being used the way sponsors intended for it to be used. The members further stated that all youth money must go into the KMG bank account and be approved by KMG, on how it was used. Asking even further questions to KMG members it was stated for these reasons sponsors were not happy and pulled their sponsorship and even membership. If sponsors are not supporting the youth due to mismanagement of funding how will KMG handle money from other goat producers?

It is noted in minutes that not even enough members are attending meetings to meet a quorum to conduct business. If there is not enough members present it means only a select few will be making major decisions. This could lead into even more shaky grounds. I do not want my daughter's nor my hard earned money to be given to a very unreliable looking association.

These are just a few of the concerns that I have about this bill. I am asking you to please vote house bill 2099 down.

Sincerely,

A Concerned Father of a Child Goat Producer

Mike Hoover

Valued Members of the House Standing Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources:

When I first learned about the goat check off bill; I was told that it was going to be pursued to see if Kansas goat producers were interested in a goat check off. It was also discussed to speak to sale barns who sold goats on regular bases, to see where they stood. After learning about this bill already being in the house, I contacted several major sale barns that sell goats and found out none were asked how they felt about this check off bill.

Why is KMGGA getting to decide everything when it does not even represent 1/8 of the goat producers in the state of Kansas? Rumors have been flying that KMGGA is on very shaky grounds and there is talk that it might disband within a year's time. With rumors spreading this does not give the majority of the goat producers a good feeling on how things will be ran with a goat check off.

It is public knowledge that half the board has or is resigning before the next annual meeting. Further this with ex members stating that KMGGA has had major issues for years furthers the need for this bill to be dropped.

I and numerous other goat producers are strongly opposing this bill.

I have enclosed information below that was given to KMGGA members at an April meeting.

**Kansas Goat Producers have not been made aware of this bill until now and are upset at how this bill is written and not being informed that this was going to happen.**

Below is the **only information** that KMGGA members have been given on the goat check off. As of February 7, 2011 it is still posted on the KMGGA website. In June KMGGA members were told that a committee had met and they were exploring what was needed. It was a very vague report and when asked it was stated that other goat producers had not been contacted yet. Looking back on minutes that are posted on the web, and personally attending every meeting in 2010: There has **NEVER BEEN** a KMGGA vote to let this go through the house or any information given that this was moving to the house.

When reading the current house bill it reads that this is not a voluntary check off, if one does not pay the goat check off they will be fined and could go to jail, (what part of voluntary is that?), it could be interpreted that someone will be paid for their goat knowledge, it is very vague as to where the check off funds are going, there is more than one four year college who have a goat program why is it just limited to just one college?, I can go on and on about how poorly this bill is written and how Kansas goat producers have been blindsided and violated with this goat check off bill.

**Once again as a Kansas Goat Producer I strongly urge you to drop this bill.**

*Please read the below information so that you can better understand what was told to KMGGA members and know that they did not vote for this to be in the house.*

## **Kansas Meat Goat Checkoff**

The Kansas Meat Goat Association has received numerous funding requests for support in the Goat industry including shows, fairs, research etc. As most of you know that KMGGA does not have the funding available to support everything that was requested. In April the KMGGA membership voted to establish an exploratory committee to pursue a Meat Goat check off program in Kansas.

Kansas Meat Goat Association CANNOT and WILL NOT control the check off funds. Funds raised by the Meat Goat Check off would be controlled by a (goat commission) selected group once passed by the State Legislation.

Here are a few questions often asked.

**Why a goat checkoff?** As number of goats and goat raisers increases, the need for more and better information, along with increased research and promotion will be vital to ensure that the goat industry continues to flourish in Kansas.

**How does checkoff work?** As goats are sold at a sale barn the commission will be deducted at time of payment. The Sale Barn will then send the collected funds to the State and the State will see to that the commission will receive the funds.

**What is a voluntary checkoff?** A voluntary check off means = if you choose not to contribute the checkoff. You may request for a refund.

House Ag & Natural Resources  
February 8, 2011  
Attachment 9

**How much will the voluntary checkoff be?** KMGA is proposing \$.50 per head.

**What will the check off monies be used for?** The check off monies can only be used for purposes that fall within specific areas of **production, marketing, promotion and education.**

The Kansas Goat industry is growing. Sales of goats in Kansas have increased 483% since 2001. While the recession has impacted growers, the demand for goat meat will likely continue to support this relatively new industry in Kansas.

I you have a question concerning the goat check off please feel free to ask.

Contact [jerry-miller@emypeople.net](mailto:jerry-miller@emypeople.net)

A committee was set up by KMGA to pursue this. (KMGA members were led to believe that pursuing meant checking out what the goat producer was wanting.)

**Only a select few committee members were told about any committee meetings.** Thus committee members that were not informed of the meetings resigned and or thought that the check off bill was not moving forward at this time.

KMGA members were told that there would be more information given to them before this went to the house. I have attended every meeting and I have not heard that this was going to the house until this week, when it was already sent to the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

I am furious that KMGA has gotten this past the house. KMGA does not even represent 1/8 of the goat producers in the state of Kansas. Don't get me wrong this could be a very useful check off if it was written the way that KMGA members were first told it would be written. Every Producer must be made aware of this bill though and it needs to be done in the original manner that it was intended for.

When this was talked about at the June KMGA meeting it was asked if youth could be exempt for the check off bill since they were trying to earn money. Jerry Miller stated that he would look into this and do everything he could to make them exempt. Reading the proposed bill it is clear that this was not considered.

I was a member and previous board member of KMGA my child was a member of KYMGA, but due to poor head leadership we are no longer a part this association.

Thank you for reading my testimony and helping other concerned Kansas Goat Producers by saying no to House Bill Number 2099.

Sincerely,

Heather Hoover

Respected Members of the House Standing Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources:

I am a twelve year old goat producer in the wonderful state of Kansas. I started raising goats when I was five by taking my change jar into the bank and cashing it in for dollars. I had a \$250.00 from my change to buy my first goats. I was able to buy five goats. (The market has changed a lot since then. I might be able to get one or two for that price in today's sale barn market.)

During my first year with goats I study hard to see what would work best for me. I went to numerous sales and shows. I was able to quickly make a profit on the goats that I bought and was able to buy registered Boers and Toggenbergs.

I started to show my goats at numerous different shows and have been able to win national awards with photos of my goats.

When I heard about House Bill 2099 I became very concerned that it would make it so that I do not make any money at all on my goats.

Last year I spent \$2,060 on quality goats to improve my herds and for show wethers. (This was both dairy and Boer goats.)

Here is a rough estimate for my bill *just for my show goats*: feed was roughly \$800.00, vet bills averaged around \$150.00, show supplies (clippers, blades, soaps, blankets, bedding, etc.) were around \$200.00, show entry fees were around \$150.00. This makes my total bill for my show goats roughly \$1,300. Add a goat check off bill to this and I would have even a harder time breaking even. I use my commercial goat herd to offset my high show goat bill.

In the state of Kansas many places cannot award youth with money like they do in other states, due to extension rules and regulations. To offset this many Kansas Goat Shows award youth with prizes, more often than not this is just a ribbon. Don't get me wrong I love the learning of showing goats and just plain showing them.

I have listened too many out of state goat breeder's talk. I think that Kansas needs to give back to the youth and do what some of the other states do. For example if you had 100 goat producers put \$200 into a goat fund for a specific use you would have \$20,000. This is done in Oklahoma and the money is used to give back to the youth for showing their goats in top honor sales.

Why are other states giving back to the youth and Kansas is proposing a bill that will take away from the youth's profits even more? The current bill only states KSU as an ex officio nonvoting member. I know that Fort Hays is doing goat research, there are numerous junior colleges, plus there are numerous 4-H and FFA chapters that are working to bring better education into their schools and communities. Why is there a specific college put on this bill?

I was a member of KYMGA for the past two years. I helped raise money and knew the amount of money that was raised by KYMGA members. I went to or listened in to every KMGA meeting that was held this year. It was very interesting to see that KMGA members said they would sponsor something and then took it out of the KYMGA's funds. They promised the youth \$500.00 to start them off and let them have their own checking account; to date this has not happened. For a youth's award banquet an adult had to ask for youth's money back so that the youth could receive their awards. There was a heated discussion just to get money for the banquet, even though it was the youth's money and was to be used for the year end awards banquet. For this reason I will not be a part of KYMGA and wonder: Why do I, as a child, have to pay into a check off bill headed by KMGA that I have seen take money from youth? Will they take money from the check off bill and use it for KMGA like they did KYMGA funds?

I know I cannot vote yet, but I still feel that I deserve a say on something that will affect me for years to come. I urge you to let House Bill 2099 go no further by voting no on it.

A twelve year old goat producer and showman;

JaelAnn Hoover

Honorable Members of the House Agriculture Committee:

I am writing concerning house bill 2099,

First I am sorry I am unable to be there today but we are lambing and kidding and it is virtually impossible with the inclement weather to be away from this and have viable births.

I belonged to KMGGA but will not join again because of the mismanagement of the organization. Half the board of directors resigned because of problems with managing the funds for the youth and other issues. I seriously think the organization will not be functioning much longer because of lack of membership.

The check off was brought up at a members meeting in April in Hutchinson. The Members voted to have a group look into it and bring it back to the membership to see if this was something that they wanted to do. I have attended every meeting to this time and it was only mentioned at a meeting in June in Abilene NOT voted on. At no time has the membership voted on this bill to see if it is the consensus of the membership. Dairy breeders were never contacted at all to my knowledge. I know they are not in favor of it.

We do not need a Goat Council sponsored by the KMGGA

On a recent KMGGA call there were threats about an auction to take place along with the banquet for the youth. The parties that had donated items for the youth took them back because the KMGGA organization would NOT satisfy their questions on the "youth" getting the money Not the parent organization.(KMGGA) This has made this organization a very unstable organization that appears to not be viable at this present time.

The Youth felt it best since they were having problems getting the money **they raised** from the KMGGA that they form a new organization which they have done.

I have been the person to sit in a booth and answer questions and listen to concerns across the state about the "Goat Industry" it has been my consensus that there is not a need for the Goat council in the form that it is presented at this time. Do we need a check off that remains to be seen, but .50 is extremely high for those who only make 1.00 per head such as the dairy which should have not even have been included in this. Not once did I have someone say we need a council or a check off in the hundreds of people I have visited with over the past two years at different jackpot shows, County Fairs, State Fair or the Kansas Junior Livestock show.

I contacted several of the livestock auctions that handle sheep and goats because if they handle one they generally handle the other they knew **NOTHING** about this checkoff and had not been contacted to see how it would affect them and their workload. They too should have a vested interest in it.

"e) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$500, or to imprisonment for not less than 30 nor more than 90 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment. "

This is copied directly from the bill as it stands. Many of the goats sold are sold by Children for their 4-H or FFA projects. I think this is a travesty to tax children as young as 7 when they sell their goats. What do you think?

Thank you for your time and effort on stopping this bill.

Sharon Kent

Wakefield