

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 KMGGA, and appointed by them as well. You must be a member of this organization to serve on the council. The KMGGA 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