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**Information on SB 414
Provided to
The House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee**

**By Dr. Bill Brown
Animal Health Commissioner
Division of Animal Health
Kansas Department of Agriculture**

March 12, 2012

Good morning, Chairman Powell and members of the committee. I am Dr. Bill Brown, Animal Health Commissioner of the Kansas Department of Agriculture. We support Senate Bill 414, which will make several important changes to statutes related to animal health.

In July 2011, Executive Reorganization Order 40 transferred the former Kansas Animal Health Department into the Kansas Department of Agriculture. Since that time, the Kansas Department of Agriculture and our Division of Animal Health have undertaken an extensive review of our statutes which has resulted in this bill.

The amendments KDA proposes in SB 414 will update the animal health statutes in order to:

- Account for modern technology such as allowing us to provide some information electronically.
- Include bison, camelids, domestic poultry and domestic waterfowl in the definition of livestock.
- Clarify that “kennel operator” means “boarding or training kennel operator.”
- Make Kansas law consistent with the federal law in allowing livestock market owners to utilize bond equivalents.
- Adjust the fine levels for misdemeanor crimes that had not been updated in recent years.

There are also some changes within the bill that help us better do our jobs. These include:

- Giving KDA the authority to put in place limited quarantines to reduce the spread of animal disease.
- Giving the Commissioner the ability to obtain injunctions and administrative search warrants if necessary to enforce the requirements of the acts.
- Giving KDA the enforcement authority to assess penalties for violations.

Finally, the bill provides some additional protections for livestock producers by:

- Improving the ability to eradicate feral swine in Kansas by expanding the definition of feral swine to include more forms of the species *sus scrofa lineas* and making it unlawful for persons to engage in, sponsor or assist in the operation of a contained hunting preserve of swine.
- Specifying that consent induced by fraud, deception or duress, such as lying on a job application to gain access to a farm or ranch, will not be considered effective consent under the Farm Animal and Research Facilities Protection Act.
- Making the use of deceptive financial practices by livestock markets unlawful.

The changes suggested in SB 414 update our statutes, provide the appropriate enforcement authority and improve protections for livestock producers.

Thank you for your consideration, and I am happy to respond to questions at the appropriate time.