

2009 KFB Ag Advisory Committee Recommendations

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Summary Data	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
<i>For National Policy Development</i>	6	1	4	1	8	10	7
<i>For State Policy Development</i>	1	6	4	4	2	1	4
<i>For Board Action</i>	10	15	17	5	7	8	8
<i>For Board Information</i>	6	13	10	17	9	2	4
<i>Total Recommendations</i>	23	35	35	27	26	21	23

The 2009 Kansas Farm Bureau Commodity Conference and Ag Advisory Committee meetings were held February 9-10 in Manhattan, KS. Primary presentations and speakers included Kansas Farm Bureau President, Steve Baccus, along with:

NAIS Cost ~ Benefit Analysis: Dr. Ted Schroeder, Kansas State University; **Farm Bill and ACRE Update:** Stephanie Gambrell, AFBF; **Animal Health and KSU Vet Med Update:** Dr. Dan Thomson, Kansas State University; **Cellulosic Ethanol Project Update:** Dr. Thomas Robb, Abengoa Energy; **Crop Insurance Update:** Mary Satterlee, Crop One Insurance; **Kansas Farm Service Agency Update:** John Drach and Todd Barrows, Kansas Farm Service Agency; and several updates from various KFB Divisions and presenters at the specific committee meetings.

Beef Committee – 8 of 10 members attending - Dana Pieper (Chair), Shawn Blanka, Phil Clubine, Jim Elder, Phillip Flock, Joe, Koster, Scott Loving, Jeff Smith, John Stegman, Board Liaison. Elected Chair for 2010, Dana Pieper.

Dairy Committee – 5 of 8 members attending - Lynda Foster (Chair), Doug Anderson, Brent Hansen, Norman Meng, Justin Ohlde, Richard Felts, Board Liaison. Elected Chair for 2010, Justin Ohlde.

Feedgrains/Oilseeds Committee – 7 of 10 members attending - Dennis Gruenbacher (Chair), Thomas Deneke, Clay Diediker, Paul Myers, Dale Peterson, Charles Schletzbaum, Stan Townsend, Fred Askren, Board Liaison. Elected Chair for 2010, Dennis Gruenbacher.

Hay & Forage Committee – 7 of 10 members attending - Brian Dunn (Chair), Don Dillinger, Brad Keith, Charlie Kindall, Charlie Stroble, Paul Wasko, Boyd Westerman, George Pretz, Board Liaison. Elected Chair for 2010, Charlie Stroble.

Sheep & Goat Committee – 5 of 10 members attending - Dallas Hiebert (Chair), Brian Faris, Marvin Kaus, Keith McNickle, Jeff Winter, Linda Franklin, Board Liaison. Elected Chair for 2010, none.

Swine Committee – 9 of 10 members attending - Jeff Korber (Chair) Bruce Carselowey, Steve Eichman, Craig Good, Max Manefee, Terry Olsen, Scott Pfortmiller, Ron Roth, Lance Visser, Jeff Grossenbacher, Board Liaison. Elected Chair for 2010, Scott Pfortmiller.

Wheat Committee – 8 of 10 members attending - Paul Shields (Chair), Gerald Barnes, Leslie Berndt, Sid Burkholder, Bill Luebbers, Jim Michael, Richard Polcyn, Neal Williams, Keith Miller, acting Board Liaison. Elected Chair for 2010, Sid Burkholder.

2009 Advisory Committee Attendance:

<u>District</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Vacancies</u>
1	4 of 6	Sheep/Goat
2	2 of 7	none
3	4 of 7	none
4	6 of 7	none
5	6 of 7	none
6	3 of 5	Swine, Dairy (Quit)
7	6 of 7	none
8	4 of 5	Dairy, Swine
9	3 of 5	Dairy, Swine
10	5 of 6	Swine
At-Large	6 of 6	
Overall	49 of 68 (72%)	

- 49 Members attended the conference and committee meetings.
- 44 Submitted the mileage reimbursement form.
- 31 Members returned the RSVP card on or nearly on time, allowing us to schedule rooms and meals more efficiently.
Note: Those not returning cards received one to two phone calls/messages.
- 6 Members initially indicated they would attend but did not, and did not notify staff so that we at could adjust meals and/or hotel reservations: Ryan Arndt, Sam Funk, Michael Homeier, Jerry McReynolds, Tom Phillips and Russell Thompson
- 1 Member did not respond to either the card or phone messages: Steve Porubsky

Livestock Management Survey

Given the furor in California over Proposition 2 this past November (2008), we know that animal care continues to garner undue attention and that many time-proven, scientifically-developed and approved animal production practices will remain under scrutiny. In an effort to identify the degree to which KFB members are changing, considering to change, or are NOT making changes to their production practices we surveyed KFB Ag Advisory Committee members attending the 2009 KFB Ag Advisory Conference and Committee meetings.

Results from the 27(55%) returned, useable surveys.

Overall, 30% were considering, planning or making production practice changes ranging from emphasizing “low stress handling techniques” to “upgrading of facilities” for better animal safety. No operations were considering, planning or making more radical production practice changes such as moving from crates to group farrowing or moving to a more “pasture-based” dairy system.

13 Beef Cow/Calf Operations, average size of 190 cows (30 – 500). 31% were considering, planning or making production practice changes.

3 Dairy Operations, average size of 335 cows (120 – 750). 67% were considering, planning or making production practice changes.

5 Farrow to Finish Swine Operations, average size of 382 sows (50 – 1150). 20% were considering, planning or making production practice changes.

3 Lamb Flock Operations, average size of 123 ewes (50 – 200). None were considering, planning or making production practice changes.

Conference Evaluation

Conference and Committee Meeting Format: Do you like?:

- a) 30 – The mix we have now?
 - b) 0 – Want more Conference Speakers
 - c) 2 – More time in Committee for Discussion
 - d) 0 – Want more Committee Speakers
-
- a) 26 – Like One Conference with all 7 committees together
 - b) 2 – Would like 2 conferences, one crops and one livestock based
 - c) 2 – Would like 7 separate committee meetings

Conference and Committee Meeting Length: Would you like?:

- a) 28 – A two day conference (10:00 am to 3:00 pm)
- b) 1 – A one day conference (noon to noon)

Conference and Committee Meeting Location: Where would you like to meet?:

- a) 30 – In Manhattan
- b) 1 – Other locations in Kansas
 - Dodge City or Hays

Rate the Conference Accommodations and Meals on a 1 – 10 basis (10 = the best):

- a) Reservation process – 9.6 (average of 33 responses)
- b) Sleeping Room (Clarion) – 9.4 (avg. of 32)
- c) KFB Meeting Rooms – 9.69 (avg. of 32)
- d) Monday noon meal – 9.24 (avg. of 33)
- e) Monday Evening Dinner – 9.28 (avg. of 32)
- f) Tuesday Breakfast – 9.18 (avg. of 32)
- g) Tuesday noon meal – 9.57 (avg. of 28)

Comments:

- Good conference and timely speakers.
- Good to hear both the crop and livestock speakers.
- I like the idea of a joint conference as we now have, so each sector is aware of the challenges the other sectors might be facing – leading to more unity.

Beef Advisory Committee Recommendations

1) Beef Recommendation for State Policy Development: AG-9, Animal Care, New second paragraph:

We support the creation of a broad based, beef industry coalition including Kansas Farm Bureau, the Beef Cattle Institute at Kansas State University and other Kansas beef organizations to develop a preeminent animal health and well-being program designed to protect our states' beef herd and provide value added opportunities to Kansas beef producers.

Explanation: Beef animal health and well-being issues are posing and will continue to pose tremendous challenges to the Kansas beef industry. It will only be through a unified effort of beef organizations that we as an industry can successfully meet these challenges by providing education and promotion, and through the creation of producer welfare assessment, animal preconditioning, and disease management and eradication programs (Scott Loving moved, seconded by Phil Flock).

- Board Action: 2/26/09, forwarded to Mark Nelson for evaluation and action.
- Action: Kansas Farm Bureau stands ready to work with the BCI and other beef industry organizations.
- Status: Completed

2) Beef Recommendation for Board Information: **The Beef Advisory Committee encourages the KFB Board of Directors to consider inviting Dr. Daniel Thomson from the Beef Cattle Institute at Kansas State University to share information regarding the Institutes plans and ideas for the creation of a beef animal health and well-being program for Kansas. In addition, contingent up on the creation of this broad based, beef industry coalition, the KFB Beef Advisory Committee would like to be made aware of these efforts and have the opportunity to participate.**

Explanation: (Dana Pieper moved, seconded by Phil Flock)

- Board Action: 2/26/09, referred to KFB Staff for evaluation and potential action.
- Action: Dr. Thomson is scheduled to present to the KFB Board at their August meeting.
- Status: Initiated

3) Beef Recommendation for Board Information: **The Beef Advisory Committee discussed the issue of possibly merging the Kansas Animal Health Department into the Kansas Department of Agriculture and wishes to inform the Board that they firmly agree with our current KFB Policy (AG-9) which supports the Kansas Animal Health Department as an independent agency.**

Explanation: (Shawn Blanka moved, seconded by Phil Clubine)

- Board Action: 2/26/09, received and filed.
- Status: Completed

Dairy Advisory Committee Recommendations

- 1) Dairy Recommendation for Board Information: **The Dairy Advisory Committee supports the proposed fee increase by the Secretary of Agriculture for the milk inspection program, H.B. 2081, for the authority of a maximum of \$0.02/cwt.**

Explanation: A fully funded and well managed dairy inspection program is not only vital for maintaining consumer confidence in the safety of milk and milk products but it is equally important to the income and profitability of Kansas milk producers. For example, in cases where a dairy does not pass an inspection, it normally must sell its milk at a reduced grade (i.e. grade B instead of grade A), negatively affecting both price and profitability. A fully-funded dairy inspection program should have the staffing necessary to quickly get back to the affected dairy for a re-inspection after the necessary improvements have been made, allowing the dairy to again sell milk at the most profitable price (Doug Anderson moved, seconded by Brent Hansen).

It should be noted that current KFB policy states, "Regulatory functions provided primarily for the protection of the general population, including milk and waste management inspections, should receive significant funding from State General Fund monies. Programs that have a more limited scope or benefit may be candidates for a funding mix that includes reasonable user fees." Given this policy position, KFB staff has already voiced opposition to this bill.

- Board Action: 2/26/09, received and filed.
- Status: Completed

- 2) Dairy Recommendation for Board Information: **The Dairy Advisory Committee supports and suggests Kansas Farm Bureau support H.B. 2295, the dairy labeling bill regarding the mislabeling of milk and milk products.**

Explanation: This bill is related to the use of misleading and fraudulent labels for dairy products and milk that are meant to confuse and scare consumers. This bill is a reintroduction of a senate bill from 2008 because the Governor halted the Secretary of Agriculture from moving forward with the creation of regulations for this issue (Doug Anderson moved, seconded by Brent Hansen).

- Board Action: 2/26/09, received and filed.
- Status: Completed

Feedgrains and Oilseeds Advisory Committee Recommendations

- 1) Feedgrains and Oilseeds Recommendation for National Policy Development: #330 – Risk Management/Crop Insurance, under “We Support,” lines 139 and 140:

(139) USDA developing standard production evidence procedures

(140) for both FSA and crop insurance purposes. **These procedures should allow producers to separate on a combined/comingled scale ticket the last bushels harvested in one unit from the first bushels harvested in a second unit when the amount of the first unit is less than 500 bushels.**

Explanation: There are times that the last few bushels harvested from an insured unit is much less than a truck load and it makes more economic sense to combine/comingled those bushels with the bushels of the next unit, especially when the third party scale or elevator is 15 or more miles away. Current RMA rules dictate separate scale tickets for each separately insured unit, especially when making claims (Stan Townsend moved, seconded by Dale Peterson).

- Board Action: 2/26/09, referred to the KFB Resolutions Committee.
- Action: There was much discussion by the RC at their July meeting but ultimately this recommendation was not placed into our tentative language. While it would be good for the farmer, without proper production evidence, the committee believed that the potential for abuse was too high and that RMA would never accept this concept.
- Status: Completed

- 2) Feedgrains and Oilseeds Recommendation for National Policy Development: #404 – Renewable Fuels, under “We Support,” new item:

(26) Requiring all diesel truck and tractor motor manufacturers to adopt biodiesel as a viable alternative for complying with EPA emission control standards.

Explanation: The measures being taken by diesel engine manufacturers to meet EPA emission control standards are resulting in lower mileage and greater costs. Designing and tuning engines to run on a B20 mix would increase fuel mileage per gallon, is cost neutral to manufacturers and would result in greater volumes of biodiesel use (Stan Townsend moved, seconded by Dennis Gruenbacher).

- Board Action: 2/26/09, referred to the KFB Resolutions Committee.
- Action: At their July meeting, the RC placed this recommendation into our tentative language for review at listening posts and consideration at our KFB Annual meeting.
- Status: Completed

- 3) Feedgrains and Oilseeds Recommendation for National Policy Development: #330 – Risk Management/Crop Insurance, under “We Support,” new item:

(73) The prohibition of publicly released crop forecasts and estimates by private companies during the price discovery periods of revenue products whose prices are based on futures prices.

Explanation: It is clear that futures market prices during price discovery periods of revenue products have a huge impact on the ultimate revenue protection delivered. In addition, due to the sensitive nature of the commodity futures market to crop forecasts, unsolicited, publically released forecasts and estimates by private firms have the potential to impact futures prices and provide an opportunity for market manipulation. By banning the public release of private forecasts during the price discovery periods, the potential for market manipulation and the resulting manipulation of revenue product prices is decreased (Stan Townsend moved, seconded by To Deneke).

- Board Action: 2/26/09, referred to the KFB Resolutions Committee.
- Action: At their July meeting, the RC discussed this recommendation but ultimately did not place it into our tentative language. While the potential for market manipulation is present, this



prohibition would impact seven months out of the year when considering corn, soybeans and wheat; and while some producers do not like private crop forecasts, other farmers do appreciate the market information and forecasts that private entities provide.

- Status: Completed

- 4) Feedgrains and Oilseeds Recommendation for National Policy Development: #330 – Risk Management/Crop Insurance, under “We Support,” new item:

(74) Classifying skip-row planting as a normal dryland production practice and using the unit or farm’s APH, without adjustment, for claim and premium calculations.

Explanation: Skip-row planting is fast becoming a commonly accepted production practice in areas with limited rainfall. A wide row, skip-row method of planting has shown drought mitigating advantages wherein water stored in the soil in the middle of the wide rows serves as a reserve during critical, late-season growth periods. In general, university and ARS research has shown a yield increase with skip-row planting over conventional planting, with yield enhancement ranges between 5 and 27 bushels and averages of approximately 12 bushels per acre. The advantage of skip-row planting over conventional planting tends to manifest when yields are low (less than 70 bushels), thus mitigating catastrophic losses (Stan Townsend moved, seconded by Paul Myers).

- Board Action: 2/26/09, referred to the KFB Resolutions Committee.
- Action: At their July meeting, the RC placed this recommendation into our tentative language for review at listening posts and consideration at our KFB Annual meeting. Note that on January 16, RMA through information memorandum PM-09-002, stated that they would “no longer use the FSA percent planted factor to determine the number of acres considered planted,” in skip-row corn. Additionally, for the 2009 crop year, skip-row corn is considered an insurable practice in several Western Kansas counties.
- Status: Completed

- 5) Feedgrains and Oilseeds Recommendation for Board Action: **To review and research current warehouse licensing and bonding requirements in Kansas in relation to their adequacy in protecting Kansas farmers in cases of bankruptcy or fraud. This research should also include an assessment of the costs and benefits of developing a state-based indemnity (or insurance) fund and the potential for Kansas Farm Bureau becoming a bonding agent or grain indemnity fund manager.**

Explanation: Given the current volatility in grain markets, the potential for Kansas grain buyers to become financially instable is high. It is imperative that the interests of Kansas farmers and ranchers be adequately protected (Stan Townsend moved, seconded by Paul Myers).

- Board Action: 2/26/09, referred to KFB Staff, specifically Mark Nelson, Terry Arthur, Mike Irvin and Sandy Rogers for evaluation and action.
- Action: Mike Irvin took the lead on this recommendation and working on, “Grain Elevators: Legal Issues Surrounding the Storage of Grain,” to be completed later this summer.
- Status: Initiated

- 6) Feedgrains and Oilseeds Recommendation for Board Action: **To use our internal communication tools such as the *Farm Leader Letter*, *Kansas Living*, KFB e-news, and the KFB website to promote and educate KFB members about the newly created United Sorghum Checkoff Program (USCP).**

Explanation: Both KFB and AFBF policy is very supportive of commodity checkoff programs for research, utilization, public education and market development. It is vital that members learn

about the newly created USCP and the benefits that it can bring to Kansas farmers and ranchers (Paul Myers moved, seconded by Dennis Gruenbacher).

- Board Action: 2/26/09, referred to KFB Staff, specifically Mike Matson for evaluation and action.
- Staff Action: Throughout 2009, the KFB Communications Division posted several articles regarding the United Sorghum Checkoff Program providing information and working to promote awareness of the newly created program, its purpose and benefits to Kansas farmers. Specifically stories were published in *e-news* (June 5 & 9); *Farm Leader Letter* (June); *Insight* (June 8); and radio interviews with Jeff Casten (June 15) and Dennis Gruenbacher were included in the KFB *Voice of Agriculture*; a sample brief *e-news* article is below and the *Insight* column can be seen on Appendix 2.

Investing in grain sorghum

KFB

While it's not considered the golden child of Kansas crops like its cousins corn and wheat, grain sorghum remains a sure bet to produce a crop in the High Plains. Often called milo, this small, BB-sized bronze-colored grain has been called the "water-sipping crop."

Learn more about efforts to fund research of grain sorghum through the National Sorghum Check-off in John Schlageck's most recent [Insight column](#). He speaks with Osage County farmer and secretary of United Sorghum Check-off Program Jeff Casten.

- Status: Initiated

- 7) Feedgrains and Oilseeds Recommendation for Board Action: **To review and research the availability of, or the potential for creating a "rating agency/system" designed for rating the financial integrity of agricultural product buyers including such entities as brokers, buyers, elevators, processors, livestock feeders and ethanol plants. This research should also include an assessment of the potential for Kansas Farm Bureau providing this service.**

Explanation: Given the current volatility in agricultural markets, the potential for Kansas grain and livestock buyers to become financially instable is high. It is imperative that the interests of Kansas farmers and ranchers be adequately protected, a rating agency/system would allow producer to check the financial viability of prospective buyers prior to selling to or contracting with them (Paul Myers moved, seconded by Dale Peterson).

- Board Action: 2/26/09, referred to KFB Staff, specifically Mark Nelson, Terry Arthur, Mike Irvin and Sandy Rogers for evaluation and action, along with the Resolutions Committee.
- Action: Mark Nelson took the lead on this recommendation and completed, "The Potential for Creating an Agri-Business Financial Rating Agency/System for Kansas," in July of 2009.
- Status: Completed

Hay and Forage Advisory Committee Recommendations

- 1) Hay and Forage Recommendation for Board Action: **To submit comments during the upcoming comment period regarding RoundUp Ready alfalfa and to notify members so that they too can comment in a timely manner. The comments should state current Farm Bureau policy, address the upcoming Environmental Impact Study and urge USDA to work as quickly as possible on this issue.**

Explanation: Farm Bureau policy and the KFB Hay and Forage Advisory Committee are both supportive of the use of biotechnology in agricultural production. The committee asks that Kansas Farm Bureau again formally submit supportive comments so that Roundup Ready alfalfa may more quickly become available to Kansas growers (Charles Kindall moved, seconded by Charlie Stroble).

- Board Action: 2/26/09, referred to KFB Staff and specifically Mark Nelson for evaluation and action.
- Status: Initiated

- 2) Hay and Forage Recommendation for Board Action: **To explore the possibility and feasibility of creating/adding/reassigning of duties for a Kansas Farm Bureau position focusing on the use of communication technology for combating anti-agriculture groups.**

Explanation: Much like the Obama campaign, we too must adopt communication technologies for the benefit of agriculture. A fulltime, part time, or even a university “intern-type” position that would work with facebook, twitter, blogs etc. monitoring internet activity, providing policy supported information and comments, along with assisting and educating members in managing these new technologies is vital (Boyd Westerman moved, seconded by Charles Kindall).

- Board Action: 2/26/09, referred to the KFB Goals and Objectives Committee and Mike Matson for evaluation and potential action.
- Status: Initiated

- 3) Hay and Forage Recommendation for Board Action: **To review and research the Rainfall Index relative to the Vegetative Index as forage insurance products.**

Explanation: While only the vegetative index is available in Kansas, these new forage and pasture insurance products offer the promise of providing a cost effective insurance program for Kansas hay producers if developed correctly. While these products are in the “pilot” phase, there are concerns with how the data is collected and will be reported, and the time frames for producer signup. Now is the time to study these products and provide input into their development, otherwise we run the risk that once these products are finalized, they will be of less value to Kansas producers (Don Dillinger moved, seconded by Brian Dunn).

- Board Action: 2/26/09, referred to KFB Staff, specifically Mark Nelson for evaluation and action.
- Status: Initiated

- 4) Hay and Forage Recommendation for Board Information: **The Hay and Forage Committee appreciates the KFB Board’s work related to the issues of animal welfare, H-2A worker status and transportation, and supports continued efforts in these areas.**

Explanation: (Paul Wasko moved, seconded by Don Dillinger).

- Board Action: 2/26/09, received with thanks from the KFB Board and filed.
- Status: Completed

Sheep and Goat Advisory Committee Recommendations

- 1) Sheep and Goat Recommendation for Board Information: **The Sheep and Goat Advisory Committee recommends that Kansas Farm Bureau, as a certified producer organization, caucus with other certified organizations this spring and work to forward the name of Dallas Hiebert to the Secretary of Agriculture to serve on the Lamb Promotion, Research and Information Board.**
 - Board Action: 2/26/09, received and filed.
 - Status: Completed

Swine Advisory Committee Recommendations

- 1) Swine Recommendation for Board Action: **To continue to make a high priority of reinforcing the positive image of animal agriculture at both the state and national levels through documentaries and other communication tools available to our organization and urge AFBF through *the Ag Challenges Initiative* to seek “celebrity spokespersons” to further our cause.**

Explanation: The Swine Advisory Committee commends both AFBF and Kansas Farm Bureau for combating the efforts of anti-animal agriculture activists. Former Congressman Glickman, through his ties to the motion picture industry may represent an opportunity for the solicitation of celebrity spokespersons (Craig Good moved, seconded by Steve Eichman).

- Board Action: 2/26/09, received and filed. This issue/action was also brought up, discussed and acted upon by the AFBF Board and efforts are underway.
- Status: Completed

- 2) Swine Recommendation for Board Action: **To actively promote the Pork Quality Assurance program (PQA) as a marketing tool showing that animal agriculture already humanely takes care of it’s product to KFB members and the general public, and to ensure greater use of this program to promote pork producers and our image in America.**

Explanation: The program while already in place is not being fully utilized by industry (Steve Eichman, seconded by Lance Visser).

- Board Action: 2/26/09, referred to KFB Staff for evaluation and re-presentation to the KFB Board for potential action once more is known.
- This recommendation was forwarded to Mark Nelson.
- May 15, 2009 Summary. After consulting with Steve Eichman, Jeff Korber and Tim Stroda, KPA President-CEO, further clarification is as follows: The U.S. pork industry has recently launched the “We Care, Responsible Pork Initiative.” The initiative encompasses several industry practices involving animal care, health and well-being, environmental sustainability, food safety, workplace fairness and safety, and community responsibilities. It is roughly a public relations/awareness campaign to assure customers, policy makers and consumers that practices and programs are in place and being followed by producers. Associated with this is an emphasis to get broader producer participation in the PQA (plus) and TQA (Transportation Quality Assurance) programs. Notably, PQA (plus) has two parts, the first is “classroom-based” and the second involves a third party audit of the operation. In Kansas, while many producers have completed part one; many have not completed part two. Currently the KPA and KSU are working to train auditors (largely swine veterinarians). Once the auditors are in place, there will be a more organized rollout of the “We Care” initiative in Kansas and an effort to encourage Kansas swine producers to complete the PQA (plus) program.

Revised Recommendation for Board Action: **To assist with the rollout of the “We Care, Responsible Pork Initiative,” by communicating information about the initiative to Kansas Farm Bureau members through normal KFB communication channels.**

Suggestions include redistributing educational articles from KPA as:

- a) “Guest blogs” on our website.
 - b) Short articles in the Farm Leader Letter and *e-news*. And possibly as,
 - c) A longer story in *Kansas Living*.
- Board Action: 5/15/09, referred to KFB Staff, specifically Mark Nelson for coordination of efforts between the KPA and KFB Communications.
 - Status: Initiated

Wheat Advisory Committee Recommendations

- 1) Wheat Recommendation for National Policy Development: #337 – Biotechnology, lines 19 - 21:
(19) efficacy criteria. We support initiatives that assist in the research,
(20) development and regulatory clearance of **wheat and** specialty crop
(21) biotechnology products.

Explanation: U.S. wheat production is faced domestically with growing competition for acres from other crops that have access to strong breeding programs and advanced technology that the wheat industry currently lacks. Additionally, new technologies offer the potential for advancements in wheat quality, along with milling and baking properties that are vital for maintaining world market share (Leslie Berndt moved, seconded by Sid Burkholder).

- Board Action: 2/26/09, referred to the KFB Resolutions Committee.
- Action: At their July meeting, the RC placed this recommendation into our tentative language for review at listening posts and consideration at our KFB Annual meeting.
- Status: Completed

- 2) Wheat Recommendation for National Policy Development: #356 – Grain Standards, Grading, Inspection and Pricing, lines 25 and 26:
(25) The objective of improving grain standards must be to enhance
(26) sales and improve returns to producers. **To enhance and expand the acreage and sales of Hard White winter wheat (HW) in the high plains, HW should be allowed to be mixed with Hard Red Winter wheat (HRW) and still be classified as HRW, with no discounts or dockage.** New standards should be

Explanation: HW holds the promise of increasing U.S. wheat export competitiveness in world markets as white wheat is normally preferred over red wheat. Currently, elevators are less willing to handle HW because there is little volume and the penalty for commingled wheat is that it is labeled as “mixed.” This represents a significant deterrent to handling HW varieties (Gerald Barnes moved, seconded by Richard Polcyn).

- Board Action: 2/26/09, referred to the KFB Resolutions Committee.
- Action: At their July meeting, the RC placed this recommendation into our tentative language for review at listening posts and consideration at our KFB Annual meeting.
- Status: Completed

- 3) Wheat Recommendation for Board Action: **To review, research and disseminate to members information surrounding the recent court case that may impact farmer and rancher efforts to spray crop protectants on fields, relative to them being classed as a point source pollutant.**

Explanation: While much yet needs to be learned about this issue, the potentially negative impacts on Kansas farmers and ranchers is clear (Gerald Barnes moved, seconded by Neal Williams).

- Board Action: 2/26/09, referred to KFB Staff, specifically Steve Swaffar for evaluation and action.
- Status: Initiated

- 4) Wheat Recommendation for Board Action: **To review, research and disseminate to members information regarding futures market transparency, regulation and the influence of “fund” investment on the futures market and on futures prices.**

Explanation: While legislative fixes are currently being proposed, additional information and education regarding these issues should be made available to members to better assist them in understanding these markets and how to use them (Richard Polcyn moved, seconded by Jim Michael).

- Board Action: 2/26/09, referred to KFB Staff, specifically Mark Nelson for evaluation and potential action. Staff was advised that efforts are underway at the AFBF level and coordination is encouraged.
- Status: Initiated

APPENDIX 1



For the week of June 8, 2009

Investing in grain sorghum

By John Schlageck, Kansas Farm Bureau

While it's not considered the golden child of Kansas crops like its cousins corn and wheat, grain sorghum remains a sure bet to produce a crop in the High Plains. Farmers in this hot, dry area from South Dakota to Texas grow grain sorghum like Corn Belt farmers produce corn.

Often called milo, this small, BB-sized bronze-colored grain has been called the "water-sipping crop." It is especially suited for growing in semi-arid climates and uses approximately one third less water than its water-thirsty cousins.

Grain sorghum generally out yields other grains under conditions of limited moisture. Until the early '50s and the beginning of irrigation in the Ogallala aquifer, milo was second only to wheat production in Kansas and many Central and Southern Plains states.

For decades this hardy crop took root and flourished on millions of acres in the High Plains. During peak production in 1966-67, 13,902,000 acres of grain sorghum were planted in the central United States. Today, Kansas producers still grow more than 40 percent of the nation's grain sorghum every year. Kansas is the nation's leading producer of grain sorghum with 214 million bushels grown on 2.65 million acres

Kansas growers like Osage County farmer Jeff Casten value grain sorghum because it is well suited to perform in many types of soils and weather. Casten operates a diversified farm growing wheat, milo, corn and soybeans in the rich bottomland of the Marais des Cygnes River Valley. He's been elected to the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission for several years and currently serves as chairman. He's also past president of the National Sorghum Producers and serves as secretary of the newly formed United Sorghum Check-off Program

Kansas is a diverse state with soils ranging from sandy to clay to loam, and summertime weather patterns ranging from hot and humid in the east to hot and dry in the west. With these varying weather and soil conditions throughout Kansas, grain sorghum is a crop that Kansas farmers can depend on.

"I grow milo as an insurance policy," Casten says. "In Kansas, dryland corn has to have everything just right to grow a good crop. Beans are the same way and a dry year with low yield on either crop can really kill you. But with grain sorghum, it'll weather the dry conditions and punch out a pretty good yield."

And while this water-sipping crop has battled high temperatures and dry-weather conditions to a stand still, there's another adversary that's threatening. Dwindling sorghum acres and production have led to decreased private investment in sorghum. These declines have brought about a "technology gap" between sorghum and other crops such as corn, cotton and soybeans.

Casten believes this technology gap can be overcome by producers investing in their own research through a national check off.

"Funding hasn't been forthcoming to put into research for grain sorghum," the Osage County farmer says. "We haven't had significant research and development for this crop for 20 years."

The investment of check-off funds can address a lack of yield improvement, bolster sorghum market development and promotion and stimulate lagging ethanol research and promotion.

“Our objective with the National Sorghum Check-off funding is to increase crop yields, technology improvement, market enhancement and increase awareness of sorghum as both a food grain and a feedstock for ethanol production.”

Check-off rate for grain sorghum is 0.6-percent of the harvested crop value. It is collected at the first point of sale. The check-off value for forage sorghums is 0.35-percent per ton above 5,000 tons.

“I feel really good about our grain sorghum check-off program,” Casten says. “It’s inspiring to see producers take it upon themselves to invest in their own industry and their future.”

John Schlageck is a leading commentator on agriculture and rural Kansas. Born and raised on a diversified farm in northwestern Kansas, his writing reflects a lifetime of experience, knowledge and passion

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