

# 2010 KFB Commodity Conference and Agricultural Advisory Committee Meetings Summary and Recommendations

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Summary Data	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
<i>For National Policy Development</i>	8	6	1	4	1	8	10	7
<i>For State Policy Development</i>	4	1	6	4	4	2	1	4
<i>For Board Action</i>	9	10	15	17	5	7	8	8
<i>For Board Information</i>	8	6	13	10	17	9	2	4
<b>Total Recommendations</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>23</b>

The 2010 Kansas Farm Bureau Commodity Conference and Ag Advisory Committee meetings were held January 25-26 in Manhattan, KS. Primary presentations and speakers included Kansas Farm Bureau Executive Director and CEO, Dan Yunk, along with:

**2010 Weather Outlook and a Look at the Science of Climate Change:** Dave Relihan, WIBW; **KSU Vet Med Update:** Dr. Dan Thomson, Jones Professor of Production Medicine and Epidemiology, KSU College of Veterinary Medicine; **Regulation of Antimicrobials in Livestock and the Effects on Animal Agriculture:** Dr. Mike Apley, KSU College of Veterinary Medicine; **Where Your Checkoff Dollars are Being Spent:** Keith Miller, USMEF & KFB District 7 Board Member; **Kansas Agricultural Statistics: Data Collection, Reporting and Budget Limitations:** Glenda Shepler, State Director, KS Ag Statistics; **The Nuts and Bolts of Employing Immigrant Labor:** Mr. Jeffrey Bell, The Law Office of Jeffrey S. Bell, P.C.; **Water Issues Update:** Steve Swaffar, KFB; **Risks and Solutions when Dealing with Financially Unstable Agri-Businesses:** Mike Irvin & Mark Nelson, KFB; **Mitigating Livestock Odor:** Dr. Joel DeRouchey, KSU Animal Science; and several other presenters at each of the specific committee meetings.

**Beef** – 7 of 10 members attending – Clint Hornberger, Jeff Smith, Dana Pieper (chair), Phillip Flock, Jason Harries, Joe Koster, Phil Clubine and John Stegman Board Advisor. Elected chair for 2011, Clint Hornberger.

**Dairy** – 5 of 8 members attending – Norman Meng, Justin Ohlde (Chair), Raymond Sundstrom, Duane Meier, Carrol Campbell and Bob Voegelé Board Advisor. Elected Chair for 2011, Justin Ohlde.

**Feedgrain/Oilseed** – 8 of 10 members attending – Clay Diediker, Dennis Gruenbacher (Chair), John Pracht, Tom Deneke, Paul Myers, Charlie Schletzbaum, Dale Peterson, Stan Townsend and Jim Sipes Board Advisor. Elected Chair for 2011, Stan Townsend.

**Hay & Forage** – 9 of 10 members attending – Kyle Schartz, Charlie Stroble (Chair), Paul Wasko, Steve Porubsky, Steve Boor, Boyd Westeman, Charlie Kindall, Brad Keith, Tom Phillips and George Pretz Board Advisor. Elected Chair for 2011, Steve Boor.

**Sheep/Goat** – 9 of 10 members attending – Kevin Kadel, Kris Radcliffe, Sam Funk (Chair), Pat Regier, Michelle Zongker, Brian Faris, Cory Scott, Carl Hamilton, Tom Clayman and Linda Franklin Board Advisor. Elected Chair for 2011, Tom Clayman.

**Swine** – 7 of 9 members attending – Craig Good, Lance Visser, Loren Baldwin, Terry Olsen, Ron Korber, Michael Springer, Scott Pfortmiller (Chair) and Jeff Grossenbacher Board Advisor. Elected Chair for 2011, Scott Pfortmiller.

**Wheat** – 8 of 10 members attending – Gerald Barnes, Sid Burkholder (Chair), Bill Luebbers, Neal Williams, Lance Coburn, Jim Michael, Richard Polcyn, Leslie Berndt and Edie Dahlsen, Substitute Board Advisor. Elected Chair for 2011, Leslie Berndt.

2009 Advisory Committee Attendance:

District	Attendance	Vacancies
1	6 of 7	none
2	6 of 7	none
3	5 of 7	none
4	6 of 6	Sheep & Goat
5	7 of 7	none
6	5 of 5	Swine, Dairy
7	5 of 7	none
8	2 of 4	Dairy, Swine, Sheep & Goat
9	3 of 4	Dairy, Swine, Sheep & Goat
10	3 of 6	Swine
At-Large	5 of 7	
Overall	53 of 67 (79%)	

- 53 Members attended the conference and committee meetings.
- 53 Submitted the mileage reimbursement form.
- 23 Members returned the RSVP card on or nearly on time, allowing us to schedule rooms and meals more efficiently. Note: Those not returning cards were called one to two times.
- 25 Members returned follow-up phone calls after the deadline, allowing us to schedule rooms and meals.
- 2 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: Chris Van Tyle and Ron Roth.

### Conference Evaluation

Conference and Committee Meeting Format: Do you like?:

- a) 32 – The mix we have now?
  - b) 0 – Want more Conference Speakers
  - c) 5 – More time in Committee for Discussion
  - d) 2 – Want more Committee Speakers
- 
- a) 36 – Like One Conference with all 7 committees together
  - b) 2 – Would like 2 conferences, one crops and one livestock based
  - c) 0 – Would like 7 separate committee meetings

Conference and Committee Meeting Length: Would you like?:

- a) 32 – A two day conference (noon to noon)
- b) 4 – A one day conference (10:00 am to 3:00 pm)

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

- a) 36 – In Manhattan
- b) 0 – Other locations in Kansas

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

- a) Reservation process – 9.5 (average of 33 responses)
- b) Sleeping Room (Clarion) – 8.8 (avg. of 33)
- c) Breakfast (Clarion) – 7.9 (avg. of 33)
- d) KFB Meeting Rooms – 9.5 (avg. of 35)
- e) Monday noon meal – 8.2 (avg. of 30)
- f) Monday Evening Dinner – 8.6 (avg. of 30)
- g) Tuesday noon meal – 8.8 (avg. of 29)

Comments:

- What about a Rural Development Committee?
- Would like to see the Feedgrains and Oilseeds Committee split into two committees.

## Beef Advisory Committee Recommendations

- 1) Beef Recommendation for National Policy Development: #247 – International Trade, under “Agricultural Exports will be increased by,” new number after line 19:

**(9) Implementing an intermediate stepped approach when necessary, on the path to fully opening a market to all products.**

Explanation: Trade can be more easily expanded in some commodities if at least some exports are initially allowed and consumer trust earned and demand increased. A step-by-step approach, even if it is not fully science-based can be beneficial if it is part of a longer term trade negotiation that is (Jeff Smith moved, seconded by Phil Clubine).

- Board Action: 3/19/10, referred to the KFB Resolutions Committee.

- 2) Beef Recommendation for State Policy Development: AG 9 – Animal Care, paragraph 8:

We support the development of a PI Quick Test for use in chute side production practices and encourage voluntary testing for PI cattle, **especially for cattle prior to sale.**

Explanation: Because Persistently Infected (PI) BVD calves pose such an economic threat to farmer and rancher purchasers of cattle, there is a clear need to identify these calves early and take the necessary management steps, including removing them from circulation (Phil Clubine moved, seconded by Jeff Smith).

- Board Action: 3/19/10, referred to the KFB Resolutions Committee.

- 3) Beef Recommendation for Board Information: **The Beef Advisory Committee supports USDA-AMS based cattle price reporting because of the need to gather information for national reporting purposes; although we have no solutions for maintaining adequate funding for these reports in Kansas.**

Explanation: Kansas currently has four USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) based cattle price reports compared to 3 for Colorado, 6 for Nebraska, 19 for Missouri and 9 for Oklahoma. Only feeder cattle price data from USDA-AMS Market Reports are used to calculate and track feeder cattle basis data at sites such as BeefBasis.com for use by producers, hedgers and academics. Additionally, these reports are used when developing the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) Feeder Cattle Index, which is both the underlying cash price for the CME Feeder Cattle Futures contract and the price used when calculating indemnities for producers using Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) insurance policies.

Funding for these unbiased reports has historically been provided through a federal/state partnership with reporting for both the Salina and Pratt sales being funded by state funds through a cooperative agreement with the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). KDA budget cuts that occurred in July of 2009 (FY10) resulted in the elimination of state-based funding for both the Salina and Pratt cattle sales. Official feeder cattle price reporting has continued though, by way of a “one year fix” that includes: additional AMS dollars supporting one sale; and the reassignment of a state employee to report on the other sale, with NASS federal dollars funding the mileage of the state-based reporter.

**Comment [s1]:** It is kind of confusing to know the difference between NASS and the Statistics Division within KDA so I have tried to spell that out without getting too detailed in this paragraph and below. I may have made it worse!!!

The “one year fix” ends on June 30, 2010. There is nothing currently in place to continue the AMS dollars for one auction after June 30, 2010. For the second auction, the NASS federal dollars will continue into FY 2011 to pay the State employee’s mileage and the employee will continue to collect the auction data. However, this option may not continue if there are further KDA budget cuts in 2010 or 2011 that would require the elimination of jobs, putting the state employee at risk (Clint Hornberger moved, seconded by Dana Pieper).

- Board Action: 3/19/10, received and filed.

- 4) Beef Recommendation for Board Information: **The Beef Advisory Committee wishes to reiterate the importance of burning as a management tool used in grassland and crop operations and support our current KFB policy, AG 13 – Controlled Burning.**

Explanation: The committee discussed the issue of pasture burning and the concerns surrounding excessive smoke reaching metro areas and supports our current policy (Jeff Smith moved, seconded by Dana Pieper).

- Board Action: 3/19/10, received and referred to the KFB Resolutions Committee.

- 5) Beef Recommendation for Board Information: **The Beef Advisory Committee recommends that Kansas Farm Bureau, as a certified producer organization, caucus with other certified organizations in 2010 and work to forward the name of Dana Pieper to the Secretary of Agriculture to serve on the National Beef Promotion, Research and Information Board.**

Explanation: The committee is aware that a former Beef Advisory Committee member will be going off the board. They discussed the issue and believe that it is important to have KFB members representing Kansas Farm Bureau on national promotion boards and further believe that Dana's experience as KFB Beef Advisory Chair and her participation on the AFBF CAC make her an excellent nominee (Jeff Smith moved, seconded by Phil Clubine).

- Board Action: 3/19/10, accepted and directed staff to forward the names of Dana Pieper (nominee) and DJ Edwards (alternate) to the Kansas caucus when appropriate.

- 6) Beef Recommendation for Board Information: **The Beef Advisory Committee supports the tentative Import Testing Requirements for Trichomoniasis which are being proposed by the Kansas Animal Health Department.**

Explanation: Trichomoniasis is a venereal disease in cattle and while Kansas does not currently have a formal testing program for breeding animals imported into the state, many surrounding plains states do, including Nebraska, Oklahoma, Colorado, South Dakota, Texas and Wyoming. With Kansas quickly becoming one of the few plains states without a formal Trichomoniasis testing rule, our state runs the risk of becoming a "dumping ground" for questionable bulls. To remedy this, the Kansas Animal Health Department (KAHD) is proposing Import Testing Requirements for Trichomoniasis. They will likely be considered "temporary regulations" in early January, 2010, and after a comment period and possible hearings, the regulations could become permanent within ninety days. The Beef Advisory Committee reviewed the KAHD draft proposal and supports this rule (Phil Clubine moved, seconded by Jason Harries).

- Board Action: 3/19/10, received and filed.

## *Dairy Advisory Committee Recommendations*

- 1) Dairy Recommendation for National Policy Development: #228 – National Dairy Program, under “We support,” new number after line 79:

**(30) Voluntary programs that provide incentives for reducing somatic cell counts in fluid milk.**

Explanation: Somatic cell count (SCC) is one of several indicators of milk quality. Somatic cells are leukocytes (white blood cells), which increase in number in response to pathogenic bacteria making it an indicator of dairy cow and herd health, and are measured as the number of cells per milliliter. Within the U.S. dairy industry, acceptable somatic cell count levels are largely set by the National Conference on Interstate Shipments, a state/federal/industry based group. Currently 750,000 SCC is the industry standard (down from 1.5 million) but from a herd health standpoint, levels over 300,000 indicate a greater likelihood of mastitis pathogen infection, can potentially have negative impacts on production and herd health, and will typically lower cheese yields when processed. Pathogens survive better in warmer climates and as a result, dairies in the southern U.S. find it more of a challenge to maintain the 750,000 SCC level. In Kansas, most dairies will average below 500,000 but between 3-4% each month will produce milk exceeding the 750,000 level. The Dairy Advisory Committee discussed the issue and while they **do not support policy or legislation that would mandate lower somatic cell counts**, they understand the benefits and believe an incentive-based program is the best alternative, providing assistance to producers so that they can make the management changes needed to lower SCC (Carrol Campbell moved, seconded by Raymond Sundstrom).

- Board Action: 3/19/10, referred to the KFB Resolutions Committee.

- 2) Dairy Recommendation for Board Information: **Regarding AFBF Policy # 228 – National Dairy Program. The Dairy Advisory Committee agrees with item (4) under, “We support,” which calls for enhanced marketing order transparency, and agree with all five of the items listed under “We oppose.”**

Explanation: The Dairy Advisory Committee spent considerable time reviewing our national dairy policy and wishes to inform the KFB Board of specific items that the committee clearly agreed with (Duane Meier moved, seconded by Carrol Campbell).

- Board Action: 3/19/10, received and filed.

## *Feedgrains and Oilseeds Advisory Committee Recommendations*

- 1) Feedgrains and Oilseeds Recommendation for National Policy Development: #330 – Risk Management/Crop Insurance, under item (52) of “We Support,” lines 146 and 147:  
(52) USDA developing standard production evidence procedures 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 when the last few bushels harvested from an insured unit is much less than a truck load and it makes more economic sense to combine/comingle those bushels with the bushels of the next unit and then allow the producer to allocate bushels to each unit from the comingled scale ticket. Today this is especially true as farm trucks are larger and when the third party scale or elevator is often 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 Tom Deneke).

- Board Action: 3/19/10, referred to the KFB Resolutions Committee.

- 2) Feedgrains and Oilseeds Recommendation for National Policy Development: #330 – Risk Management/Crop Insurance, under “We Support,” new item:  
**(80) Extending the base price discovery periods of revenue products to six months for products whose prices are based on the futures market.**

Explanation: Utilizing a longer time period for setting the base price for crop revenue products will result in a price that better represents the previous year’s prices and prevent private forecasts from potentially manipulating market prices during the price discovery period (James Sipes moved, seconded by Dale Peterson).

- Board Action: 3/19/10, referred to the KFB Resolutions Committee.

- 3) Feedgrains and Oilseeds Recommendation for National Policy Development: #548 – Water Use, new paragraph beginning on line 321:  
**We recommend more careful management of the Ogallala Aquifer, including efforts toward artificial recharge combined with restrictions on water use to ensure that recharge exceeds water use.**

Explanation: Available water in the Ogallala Aquifer continues to decline and without more active management, this valuable resource will ultimately disappear. A two pronged management approach is needed, combining efforts to artificially recharge the aquifer with more restrictive water use ensuring that water levels will increase over time (Stan Townsend moved, seconded by Dennis Gruenbacher).

- Board Action: 3/19/10, received and filed.

- 4) Feedgrains and Oilseeds Recommendation for State Policy Development: AG 4 – Agricultural Commodity Storage, new paragraph:  
**We support the creation of a Kansas Grain Indemnity Trust Account managed under the auspices of the Kansas Department of Agriculture to further protect the interests of farmers.**

Explanation: Given the volatility of grain markets, the potential for Kansas grain buyers to become financially unstable is high and it is imperative that the interests of Kansas farmers and ranchers be adequately protected. Last year the committee heard from Mike Irvin, they then requested additional research from him and now believe that the development of a grain indemnity fund would be of benefit to Kansas (Stan Townsend moved, seconded by Charlie Schletzbaum).

- Board Action: 3/19/10, referred to the KFB Resolutions Committee.

5) Feedgrains and Oilseeds Recommendation for Board Action: **To separate the Feedgrains and Oilseeds Advisory Committee into two full KFB Advisory Committees, Feedgrains and Oilseeds.**

Explanation: The committee understands that combining the two committees was done in part to better align with AFBF action but since that time, AFBF has reversed direction and again separated the two committees. Additionally, under our current one day, plus format, the committee doesn't have the time to adequately discuss the issues facing both feedgrains and oilseeds (Dennis Gruenbacher moved, seconded by Dale Peterson).

- Board Action: 3/19/10, approved for the 2011 membership year and beyond, providing that overall Commodities Division budget neutrality is maintained into 2011.

6) Feedgrains and Oilseeds Recommendation for Board Information: **The Feedgrains/Oilseeds and Wheat Advisory Committees support: the use of Atrazine as a restricted use herbicide; science based research, as the tool to determine usage and rates; and lines 54 and 55 of AFBF Policy #336 – Agricultural Chemicals.**

Explanation: Atrazine is a safe and effective herbicide used widely in Kansas that has come under attack as of late. The Feedgrains/Oilseeds and Wheat Advisory Committees jointly urge the KFB Board and staff to continue to monitor this situation and actively work to maintain the availability of Atrazine to Kansas Farmers.

AFBF Policy #336 – Agricultural Chemicals:

54 Atrazine, Acetachlor and Simazine are effective economical crop  
55 protection chemicals that must continue to be available to farmers.

- Board Action: 3/19/10, received and filed.

## *Hay and Forage Advisory Committee Recommendations*

- 1) Hay and Forage Recommendation for National Policy Development: #330 – Risk Management/Crop Insurance, under “We Support,” new number:

**(80) Improvements to the Pasture, Rangeland and Forage program including; expanding Rainfall Index coverage to include annual forages such as small grain pasture and summer forage crops, and to remove the requirement of providing an FSA tract and field number at signup.**

Explanation: The Rainfall Index is a new product in Kansas providing opportunities for farmers and ranchers to insure against drought on pastures and range. The committee believes that other forages which are inadequately covered through other insurance products would be amenable to Rainfall Index coverage. Additionally, the current requirement of having to provide an FSA Tract Number at signup can be problematic for ranches made up primarily of rangeland, that do not grow commercial crops and are not enrolled in any FSA programs (Steve Boor moved, seconded by Kyle Schartz).

- Board Action: 3/19/10, referred to the KFB Resolutions Committee.

- 2) Hay and Forage Recommendation for National Policy Development: #502 – Clean Air, under “We Oppose,” line 52:

Insert a comma and the word “ranchers:”

51 (1) Mandatory air quality standards for ozone and particulate

52 matter on farmers, **ranchers** and agricultural businesses;

Explanation: The committee believes that adding the word “ranchers” makes the policy and concept more descriptive and inclusive, similar to how KFB advocates for both the “Farmers and Ranchers” of Kansas (by common consent of the committee).

- Board Action: 3/19/10, referred to the KFB Resolutions Committee.

- 3) Hay and Forage Recommendation for State Policy Development: AG 13 – Controlled Burning, **to refer to the KFB Resolutions Committee, the Hay and Forage Advisory’s concerns regarding the importance for local control of pasture burning decisions and management.**

Explanation: The committee believes that decisions regarding burning or smoke management are better made at the local level. They are not against current KFB efforts to work toward a “smoke management plan” that would be acceptable to EPA, yet retain the right of farmers and ranchers to implement prescribed pasture burns but the committee is concerned that our current policy may not be stringent enough (Steve Boor moved, seconded by Kyle Schartz).

On March 2, 2010, the Hay and Forage Advisory convened a teleconference to discuss in more depth, the issue of pasture burning and smoke management with Steve Swaffar. At this teleconference, the committee revised their pasture burning recommendation as reflected above (Steve Boor moved, seconded by Kyle Schartz). Members present on the call included; Charlie Stroble (chair), Steve Boor, Kyle Schartz, George Pretz (Board Advisor), Mark Nelson and Steve Swaffar (KFB staff).

- Board Action: 3/19/10, referred to the KFB Resolutions Committee.

- 4) Hay and Forage Recommendation for Board Action: **To review and research the issue of antibiotic use in the ethanol industry and antibiotic residues in DDG’s.**

Explanation: The committee discussed this issue and believes that with antibiotic resistance and antibiotic use in the livestock industry being openly questioned and possibly restricted, more internal information would be beneficial to members and assist in future policy development. They suggest further staff research into this issue (by common consent of the committee).

- Board Action: 3/19/10, referred to KFB Staff.

5) Hay and Forage Recommendation for Board Action: **To actively promote and educate Kansas Farm Bureau members regarding the newly available Rainfall Index through normal KFB communication channels.**

Explanation: The Rainfall Index is a new product in Kansas, with availability just beginning in 2010. In addition, the policy works somewhat differently than most crop insurance policies Farm Bureau members are accustomed too. Given these points, member education is vital so that farmers and ranchers can better understand the product and make informed decisions on whether it can work for them. Informative articles through normal KFB communication tools such as the KFB website, *Farm Leader Letter*, *enews* and *Kansas Living* magazine could provide education and convey significant information about this new product (Charles Kindall moved, second not recorded).

- Board Action: 3/19/10, referred to KFB Staff.

## *Sheep and Goat Advisory Committee Recommendations*

- 1) Sheep and Goat Recommendation for National Policy Development: #310 – Livestock Information Reporting, added to the end of line 18:

16 State and federal market reporting activities involving auction  
17 barns, special and seasonal feeder animal sales and beef, swine,  
18 poultry, dairy, lamb and goat breeding animals should be continued. **USDA-AMS should develop protocols and rules to allow auctions to self report results and price information when conditions or funding prevents official reporters from attending individual auctions or sales.**

Explanation: Price reporting at the Salina and Pratt livestock auctions is likely to be discontinued (see Beef recommendation number 3) and funding for price reporting efforts will likely continually be threatened, not just in Kansas but throughout the U.S. The committee believes that at a minimum, the availability of livestock prices and weights for all species (cattle, sheep, goats, etc.) from Kansas auctions, even if self reported, are preferable to having no price reports available at all (Thomas Clayman moved, seconded by Cory Scott).

- Board Action: 3/19/10, referred to the KFB Resolutions Committee.

- 2) Sheep and Goat Recommendation for State Policy Development: new MS 2 – County Fairs: **We support county and regional fairs encouraging youth to participate in livestock activities who are unable to enroll in 4-H by providing open livestock exhibitions such as a bucket calf, lamb, goat or pig.**

Explanation: Family values, work ethic, character building and the future of the Kansas livestock industry are all strengthened by youth shows, projects and activities. Youth who are unable to enroll in 4-H due to age should be allowed to continue to be active in activities such as exhibiting livestock (Michelle Zongker moved, seconded by Thomas Clayman).

- Board Action: 3/19/10, referred to the KFB Resolutions Committee.

- 3) Sheep and Goat Recommendation for Board Action: **To create a central (and prominent) set of links for statewide sheep and goat information on the KFB Commodities webpage.**

Explanation: A set of hyperlinks for statewide sheep and goat resources prominently displayed on the KFB Commodities web page would help to facilitate greater communication among producers and easier access to needed resources (Carl Hamilton moved, seconded by Michelle Zongker).

- Board Action: 3/19/10, referred to KFB Staff.

- 4) Sheep and Goat Recommendation for Board Action: **To meet with USDA-AMS staff (Federal and Regional) to coordinate market information, even if self reported by auctions, for producers to have access to critical price information, if official AMS market reporters are unable to cover individual markets.**

Explanation: USDA-AMS currently only sponsors market reports for the Dodge City, Salina and Pratt feeder cattle auctions. Salina and Pratt livestock auctions are likely to be discontinued (see Beef recommendation number 3). The committee believes that having prices and weights reported by USDA-AMS for all species (cattle, sheep, goats, etc.) from Kansas auctions, even if this is done only through markets self reporting is preferable to no reports being available (Thomas Clayman moved, seconded by Cory Scott).

- Board Action: 3/19/10, referred to KFB Staff.

## Swine Advisory Committee Recommendations

- 1) Swine Recommendation for Board Action: **To support or initiate an exploratory meeting between ag-based organizations regarding the development of an over-arching coalition of organizations to support animal agriculture in Kansas, along with exploring the development of in-house fund raising efforts to support animal agriculture.**

Explanation: The committee believes that animal agriculture will continually be attacked by various movements and organizations wishing to put an end to food animal production. Because of this, efforts should be made to coordinate with other groups, raise funds and prepare for these challenges. From a KFB standpoint, providing the opportunity to donate when members pay their membership dues could be explored (Michael Springer moved, seconded by Loren Baldwin).

- Board Action: 3/19/10 approved as amended and referred to KFB Staff. **To support or initiate an exploratory meeting between ag-based organizations regarding the development of an over-arching coalition of organizations to support animal agriculture in Kansas.**

- 2) Swine Recommendation for Board Action: **To have someone at KFB become familiar with the Pork Quality Assurance Plus (PQA+) program so as to help producers with questions and set up appropriate links on the KFB website.**

Explanation: The committee believes KFB should more actively promote producer participation in the PQA+ program. Notably, PQA+ 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 (Ronald Korber, seconded by Scott Pfortmiller).

- Board Action: 3/19/10, referred to KFB Staff.

- 3) Swine Recommendation for Board Action: **To keep the KFB Swine Advisory Committee informed about the outcome of the recent USMEF and NPPC meeting (via email). In addition, the committee believes KFB should encourage livestock industry and trade groups to maintain an open dialogue regarding trade related issues, for example, encouraging USMEF and NPPC to maintain an open dialogue.**

Explanation: The committee heard from Mr. Keith Miller at the recent Ag Advisory Conference who shared with them that a meeting between NPPC and USMEF was going to take place regarding a potential Chinese live animal import ban along with an effort to clear up a communication issue between NPPC and USMEF. The committee would like to be informed as to how the meeting concluded. Secondly, the committee believes U.S. agricultural organizations must communicate more closely to ensure that industry and trade group actions are more cohesive and suggests that KFB work to remind them that we are all in this together and communication is vital (Michael Springer, seconded by Terry Olsen).

- Board Action: 3/19/10, received and filed.

- 4) Swine Recommendation for Board Information: **The KFB Swine Advisory Committee is concerned about the lack of clear rules and laws regarding the handling of biotech products as they come off patent, especially as it relates to Monsanto and their handling of RoundUp Ready 1 seed.**

Explanation: The committee is concerned with the lack of any plan for regulatory stewardship for ag biotech products as they come off patent. Without adequate planning, farmers could end up without the option for generic ag biotech products, or worse yet, could lose critical export markets because of lack of regulatory approvals for these products abroad (Loren Baldwin moved, seconded by Michael Springer).

- Board Action: 3/19/10, received and filed.

## *Wheat Advisory Committee Recommendations*

- 1) Wheat Recommendation for Board Action: **To submit comments to USDA-GIPSA (Grain Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Administration) regarding their review of US Wheat Grades. Comments should include a recommendation to reclassify Hard Red Winter (HRW) and Hard Red Spring (HRS) wheat as “Wheat of other classes,” rather than their current “Contrasting classes” in the class Hard White (HW) wheat. In addition, comments should recommend that GIPSA develop a generic approach to grading that would allow uniform blending of any U.S. wheat classes with the classes appropriately identified on any official grain inspection certificate.**

Explanation: The comments regarding reclassifying HRW and HRS wheat as “Wheat of other classes,” rather than as “Contrasting classes” in the class HW, is intended equate the way that HRW mixed with HW is treated compared to how HW mixed with HRW is treated. Currently, HW is “wheat of other classes,” in the class Hard Red Winter, thus in a load of HRW wheat, up to 5% HW can be inadvertently mixed with it and it will still grade #2 HRW. In the case of a load of HW though, because Hard Red Winter is considered a “contrasting class,” only 2% can be inadvertently mixed with it to grade as #2 HW. A level of 3% would cause it to grade as #3 Hard White wheat, and 4% would cause it to grade as #4 HW.

The result of this recommendation would allow the maximum amount of HRW wheat inadvertently mixed with Hard White (HW) to increase from 2% to as much as 5% in a #2 grade.

The goals of this recommendation are to:

- a) Alleviate potential confusion for handlers by equating the amounts of HRW that can be inadvertently mixed in a load of HW with the amounts of HW that can be inadvertently mixed in a load of HRW; and
- b) Encourage more elevators to handle HW wheat in Kansas, which has slowed adoption of this class of wheat. It is believed that by alleviating confusion and allowing slightly higher levels of adventitious HRW and HRS in Hard White wheat lots, more elevators would be willing to handle Hard White wheat.

The comments regarding GIPSA developing a more flexible and generic approach to grading that would allow uniform blending of any U.S. wheat classes is intended to promote the blending of different wheat classes based on specific buyer demands at the elevator level. Australia for example, blends specific wheat classes for the Japanese and Korean white salted noodle markets and the blend is branded as “Australian Noodle Wheat,” and domestically, millers already blend different classes for various bread and/or noodle markets.

This goal of this concept is to allow elevators and grain handlers when possible, to create mixed loads that meet specific domestic or exporter demands. By creating these demanded mixes, the elevators would be adding value to the grain with the intent that at least a portion of the added value might go to farmers. Additionally, this too might encourage more elevators to handle both HRW and HW wheat in Kansas (Neal Williams moved, seconded by Bill Luebbers).

- Board Action: Through email, the KFB Board unanimously approved the recommendation during the third week of February and staff submitted comments on February 23, 2010. See Appendix 1.

- 2) Wheat Recommendation for Board Information: **The Wheat and Feedgrains/Oilseeds Advisory Committees support: the use of Atrazine as a restricted use herbicide; science based research, as the tool to determine usage and rates; and lines 54 and 55 of AFBF Policy #336 – Agricultural Chemicals.**

Explanation: Atrazine is a safe and effective herbicide used widely in Kansas that has come under attack as of late. The Feedgrains/Oilseeds and Wheat Advisory Committees jointly urge the KFB Board and staff to continue to monitor this situation and actively work to maintain the availability of Atrazine to Kansas Farmers (Bill Luebbers moved, seconded by Lance Coburn).

AFBF Policy #336 – Agricultural Chemicals:

54 Atrazine, Acetachlor and Simazine are effective economical crop  
55 protection chemicals that must continue to be available to farmers.

- Board Action: 3/19/10, received and filed.

Appendix 1:

February 23, 2010

Tess Butler  
GIPSA, USDA  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 1643-S  
Washington, DC 20250-3604

RE: United States Standards for Wheat Notice Comments

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for providing this opportunity to comment on current U.S. wheat standards and grading practices. Kansas Farm Bureau is the largest farm organization in Kansas with nearly 40,000 voting, farmer and rancher members involved in every facet of agricultural food, fiber and energy production.

Our members believe that in order to maintain our competitive advantage in world markets and to deliver the products that today's consumers demand, we must continue to support and encourage changes in grading procedures and standards to ensure that class and grade accurately reflect the appropriate end uses for U.S. grains.

Over the last year, our Kansas Farm Bureau Wheat Advisory Committee has studied and discussed U.S. Wheat Grades along with several wheat production and marketing issues, and from that work we have two recommendations for your consideration.

- 1) **Kansas Farm Bureau recommends that the classes of Hard Red Winter (HRW) and Hard Red Spring (HRS) be considered "wheat of other classes," rather than "contrasting classes" in the class Hard White (HW) wheat.** This recommendation would allow the maximum amount of HRW wheat inadvertently mixed with HW to increase from 2% to as much as 5% and still maintain a #2 grade. We believe the additional three percent will help alleviate the on-going challenges elevators face with adventitious amounts of HRW and HRS in Hard White wheat lots; challenges that have discouraged some from handling HW wheat, slowing adoption of this class of wheat in Kansas. In addition, this recommendation would equate the levels of inadvertent mixing allowed within the classes of HRW and HW, which we believe would also alleviate some of the confusion for handlers; since HW is currently already considered, "wheat of other classes," in Hard Red Winter.
- 2) In addition, **Kansas Farm Bureau recommends that GIPSA consider a more flexible, generic approach to grading that would allow uniform blending of any U.S. wheat classes with the classes appropriately identified on any official grain inspection certificate.** This recommendation would allow the development and promotion of specific blends of different wheat classes based on specific buyer demands. We believe that this concept could be used in the U.S. to better meet specific importer needs and also possibly used where a specific blend of HW and HRW wheat might be developed for domestic bread markets. This too would help alleviate the challenges of adventitious mixing of HRW and HW wheat; challenges that have discouraged some elevators from handling HW wheat, slowing its adoption in Kansas.

Farm Bureau recognizes the importance that grain grading procedures and standards play in delivering high quality grains. Our policy is very clear in its support of new grains standards and the active review and revision of grain grades; and we applaud the Grain Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Administrations' current review of U.S. wheat standards. We ask that you consider our recommendations and thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Mark Nelson  
Director of Commodities  
Kansas Farm Bureau

  
KANSAS FARM BUREAU  
The Voice of Agriculture