

# 2008 KFB Ag Advisory Committee Recommendations

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Summary Data	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
<b>For Board Action</b>	15	17	5	7	8	8	7
<b>For Board Information</b>	13	10	17	9	2	4	5
<b>For State Policy Development</b>	6	4	4	2	1	4	6
<b>For National Policy Development</b>	1	4	1	8	10	7	5
<b>Total Recommendations</b>	35	35	27	26	21	23	23

The 2008 Kansas Farm Bureau Commodity Conference and Ag Advisory Committee meetings were held February 4-5 in Manhattan, KS. Primary presentations and speakers included:

**Animal Welfare:** Dr. James Sartwelle, AFBF Livestock Economist; **Kansas Motor Carrier**

**Regulation Update:** Mike Hoeme, Director, Transportation Division, Kansas Corporation

Commission; **Update from the Executive Director:** Dr. Dan Yunk, Executive Director and CEO, Kansas Farm Bureau; along with several updates from various KFB Divisions.

**Beef Committee:** 9 of 11 members attending – Kelly Muir (Chair), Shawn Blanka, Phil Clubine, Phillip Flock, Joe Koster, Scott Loving, Dana Pieper, Joanna Schmeeckle, Jeff Smith, John Stegman, Board Liaison. Elected Chair for 2009, Dana Pieper

**Dairy Committee:** 8 of 9 members attending – Lynda Foster (Chair), Doug Anderson, Carrol Campbell, Michael Dorrell, Brent Hansen, Kenton LaRosh, Norman Meng, Steven Ohlde, Richard Felts, Board Liaison. Elected Chair for 2009, Lynda Foster

**Feedgrains/Oilseeds Committee:** 7 of 10 member attending – Francis Kelsey (Chair), Brad Blank, Clay Diediker, Dennis Gruenbacher, Dale Peterson, Craig Poore, John Pracht, Fred Askren, Board Liaison. Elected Chair for 2009, Dennis Gruenbacher

**Hay & Forage Committee:** 6 of 10 members attending – Brian Dunn (Chair), Tom Phillips, Stacey Forshee, Charlie Stroble, Don Dillinger, Steve Porubsky, George Pretz, Board Advisor. Elected Chair for 2009, Brian Dunn

**Sheep/Goat Committee:** 8 of 10 members attending – Dallas Hiebert (Chair), Mike DeLange, Sam Funk, Marvin Kaus, Keith McNickle, Alan Radcliffe, Jim Smart, Dedra Wehrman, Linda Franklin, Board Liaison. Elected Chair for 2009, Dallas Hiebert

**Swine Committee:** 4 of 7 members attending – Leon Dunn, Jeff Korber, Max Menefee, Terry Olsen, Jeff Grossenbacher, Board Liaison. Elected Chair for 2009, Jeff Korber

**Wheat Committee:** 9 of 10 members attending – Dennis Swenson (Chair), Gerald Barnes, Sid Burkholder, Mitch Feldkamp, Bill Luebbbers, Richard Polcyn, Lance Tischhauser, Neal Williams, Paul Shields, Bob Voegele substituted for Jerry McReynolds as Board Liaison. Elected Chair for 2009, Paul Shields



## 2008 ADVISORY COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE

District	Attendance	Vacancies
1	5 of 6	Sheep & Goat
2	6 of 7	
3	4 of 7	
4	6 of 7	
5	6 of 6	Swine
6	5 of 6	Swine
7	7 of 7	
8	3 of 5	Dairy & Swine
9	2 of 5	Dairy & Swine
10	3 of 5	Dairy & Swine
At-Large	4 of 6	
Overall	51 of 67 (76%)	

- 50 Members attended the conference and committee meetings.
- 29 Members did not respond to the initial email but did to a later phone call.
- 4 Members initially indicated they would attend but did not, and did not notify staff so that we could adjust meals or hotel reservations: Jim Elder, Daniel Skrdlant, Darrell Kuhn and David McMillen
- 1 Member did not respond to either email or phone messages: Warren Willis

## *Beef Advisory Committee Recommendations*

### 1) Beef Recommendation for State Policy Development: AG-9, New paragraph

**Persistently Infected (PI) Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) is a growing health concern within the beef industry. We support the development of a PI Quick Test for use in chute side production practices and encourage voluntary testing for PI cattle.**

Explanation: This disease is negatively impacting animal health and beef profits on all levels of beef production. (Phil Clubine moved, seconded by Shawn Blanka)

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Referred to the KFB Resolutions Committee (KFB-RC)
- The following language passed the KFB-RC, was shared with members at Listening Posts throughout the state during the fall and was voted in by members at the 2008 KFB Annual Meeting, paragraph 8, AG-9 (Animal Care):

**We support the development of a PI Quick Test for use in chute-side production practices and encourage voluntary testing for PI cattle.**

- Status: Completed

### 2) Beef Recommendation for Board Action: **To provide more mass media education regarding Animal Welfare and the Misconceptions of Animal Agriculture to the General Public. Continue to develop accurate teaching aids that are easily accessible to Public school teachers to use in their classrooms.**

Explanation: As we move into the future, more and more citizens are removed from their agricultural roots. We as a farm advocacy organization must play the most upfront role in providing the most up to date and accurate information on the animal welfare subject. Our producers need help in defending their livelihood from misconceptions about what they do for a living as well as their way of life. They say our children are our future, and we feel that has never been more true, and we feel we must start there. We encourage the Board to make sure that Farm Bureau is on the front lines of the battle over this issue and continues to do everything they can to help citizens comprehend and understand that there are no better stewards of animal agriculture than those that live and breath it everyday of their lives. (Dana Pieper moved, seconded by Phil Clubine)

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Referred to KFB Staff for Evaluation
- This recommendation was forwarded to Holly Higgins for evaluation and action.
- Staff Action: Food producers involved with dairy, meat and poultry are facing a significant threat from animal activists opposed not only to certain production practices but to farm and food animal production. KFB assembled a cross-divisional team to address current and upcoming issues. Several actions are listed below:
  1. **Two presentations were developed-** Animal Welfare I – 30 min. designed to acquaint members with the difficult issue of Animal Welfare. Animal Welfare II - 4 hours- offers a more in-depth workshop style presentation. The KFB website accessed with a member log-in provides a Member Action Plan - Related Web Sites - Timely articles (both sides of the issue) - Materials and promotional information.
  2. **AFBF Ag Challenges Initiative** – Eight KFB producers participated in spokesperson training May 28 and 29 in Kansas City. They were trained to communicate effectively with the public and press about animal welfare issues. Understanding the background to the messaging that Farm Bureau believes best represents the reality of the animal welfare situation was stressed. Sample scripts were provided and speaking opportunities are offered and arranged for them. They were trained on conducting media interviews and writing letters to editors.
  3. **Kailey's Ag Adventures Book III – Caring for the Animals** Scheduled for completion Spring 09. The book along with the lesson plans will provide the perfect introduction to

teachers and students statewide about our side of the animal welfare debate. Key messages include:

- Healthy animals mean healthy food for you and your family.
- Farmers and ranchers care deeply about the health, well-being and safety of our animals and we ensure our animals well –being through proper management and shelter.
- Standards for animal care should be based on the expertise of veterinarians, farmers, ranchers and animal scientists—the people who work with farm animals daily.
- Changes to animal well-being guidelines should be based on data expert analysis and economic feasibility.

4. **KFB Animal Welfare Television Campaign** The commercials are scheduled to **run on mass media via broadcast/cable television and radio stations across Kansas and will be seen or heard by a majority of state’s population over the next two years.** The campaign is designed to dispel the misconceptions about animal agriculture by demonstrating, in an emotionally appealing way, how cattle are properly raised and cared for by Kansas farmers and ranchers. The theme of the campaign is “Care and Respect . . . Practiced Daily” and features Kansas family farmers and ranchers who have a long-standing tradition of raising cattle. In the first phase, seven Farm Bureau families were interviewed about their farm and ranch operation and explained how and why they raise cattle – that it’s more than a livelihood, it’s a way of life.
5. **Animal Welfare Television Documentary** In addition, the latest in the continuing series of Kansas Farm Bureau television documentaries will focus on this subject. Currently in production, the documentary will feature Kansas Farm Bureau members sharing their deeply-held beliefs and passion about animal agriculture. The **documentary will reach a statewide viewing audience on public television stations KPTS-Wichita, KTWU-Topeka, KOOD-Bunker Hill and on selected regional cable systems. Each County FB will receive a DVD copy, for use on local cable access stations and for local gatherings/meetings/functions.**

- Status: Completed

- 3) Beef Recommendation for Board Action: **To assign appropriate staff and resources to promote the use of BQA (Beef Quality Assurance) guidelines by members in beef production. Including materials to educate and support producers in learning the practices set forth in the guidelines and applying them in their operations.**

Explanation: The importance of the use of the BQA program guidelines is and will be a necessary part in supplying the consumer with a healthy product that they know has been properly handled and cared for. While at the same time eliminating some of the economic losses incurred by producers and packers. Product that has been mishandled or damaged from an incorrect injection site is costing the industry millions of dollars a year in revenue. (Dana Pieper moved, seconded by Joe Koster)

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Received and Filed
- Status: Completed

- 4) Beef Recommendation for Board Action: **To assign staff to compose literature or educational materials to inform producers of the impacts and possible solutions to PI (Persistently Infected) cattle. Continue to support the advancement of a PI Quick Test for use in chute side production practices.**

Explanation: Persistently Infected (PI) Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) is a growing health concern within the beef industry, (particularly the feeding sector). This disease is negatively

impacting animal health and beef profits on all levels of beef production. The committee would like to see more educational materials put forth to help producers understand what PI cattle are and the impact they have on the industry. The committee would also like to see continued support for a Quick Test that would be more economical and simpler to administer. (Phil Clubine moved, seconded by Shawn Blanka)

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Received and Filed
- Status: Completed

- 5) Beef Recommendation for Board Information: **The committee believes that additional research and education are vitally needed regarding nutritional levels of value-added, by-products used as feeds. The development of by-product standards for the industry to adhere to when selling by-products as feedstuffs would be beneficial, as it would provide a target for by-product producers to meet and a reasonable level of expectation for livestock producers to expect and build rations around.**

Explanation: Producers are concerned about the major fluctuations in the consistency of feed by-products (particularly distiller grains). The committee would like to see the product more consistent in nutritional analysis. Currently these by-products fluctuate in their nutritional value, causing problems when fed to cattle; and rations must be adjusted almost daily in some cases to keep the proper nutritional levels. Changing these rations also has an adverse affect on the animals themselves, ranging from poor gains to possible sickness from the change in diet. We feel for the product to be feasible to use on a daily basis it must be more consistent to be effective. (Phil Clubine moved, seconded by Shawn Blanka)

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Referred to the KFB Resolutions Committee (KFB-RC)
- The following language passed the KFB-RC, was shared with members at Listening Posts throughout the state during the fall and was voted in by members at the 2008 KFB Annual Meeting, beginning on line 80, AFBF Policy 356 (Grain Standards, Grading, Inspection and Pricing):

We support standards for the quality and safety of **feed value by-products** coming out of ethanol plants. **Providers of feed value by-products should report the nutritional value for by-products offered.**

- The following language passed the AFBF-RC was shared with members at the 2009 AFBF Annual Meeting, where it also passed, beginning on line 80, AFBF Policy 356 (Grain Standards, Grading, Inspection and Pricing):  
We support standards for the quality and safety of **feed co-products** coming out of ethanol plants.
- Status: Completed

## *Dairy Advisory Committee Recommendations*

- 1) Dairy Recommendation for State Policy Development: AG-16, New paragraph

**We encourage all levels of government to vigorously enforce laws regarding the fraudulent and misleading labeling of dairy products.**

Explanation: We feel it is important to bring this AFBF language and place it in our State Policy book in order to highlight its importance and relevance at the state level. (Steve Ohlde moved, seconded by Norman Meng)

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Referred to the KFB Resolutions Committee (KFB-RC)
- The following language passed the KFB-RC, was shared with members at Listening Posts throughout the state during the fall and was voted in by members at the 2008 KFB Annual Meeting, third paragraph, AG-16 (Food Product Labeling):

**We encourage all levels of government to vigorously enforce laws regarding the fraudulent and misleading labeling of dairy products.**

- Status: Completed

- 2) Dairy Recommendation for Board Information: **The committee strongly supports the efforts of AFACT.**

Explanation: AFACT (American Farmers for the Advancement and Conservation of Technology) is a new producer organization that seeks to educate, equip and empower all participants in the food chain to understand the benefits of technology and encourage consumers to demand access to high-quality, affordable food with a minimal impact on the environment.

<http://itisafact.org/> (motion by common consent)

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Received and Filed
- Status: Completed

- 3) Dairy Recommendation for Board Information: **Immigration is important to the dairy industry and the Dairy Committee is supportive of our present policy.**

Explanation: A high percentage of milk is being produced with the assistance of immigrant labor. (motion by common consent)

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Received and Filed
- Status: Completed

- 4) Dairy Recommendation for Board Information: **The Dairy Committee supports and suggests Kansas Farm Bureau support S.B. 595 – Ag Labeling, regarding the mislabeling of agricultural products.**

Explanation: This ACT concerns all agricultural products but has specific applicability to certain dairy products and milk that are being marketed through the use misleading and fraudulent labels that are meant to confuse and scare consumers. (Carrol Campbell moved, seconded by Steve Ohlde)

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Received and Filed
- Status: Completed

## *Feedgrains and Oilseeds Advisory Committee Recommendations*

- 1) Feedgrains and Oilseeds Recommendation for State Policy Development: AG-7, New paragraph (after paragraph 3)

**We support reduced state fuel tax rates on biodiesel and ethanol blends of E20 and greater. As additional blends of ethanol become available, they should be taxed at a rate similar to E85. Biodiesel should be taxed at a lower rate than 100% fossil-based diesel.**

Explanation: It is important that for biodiesel, and as additional ethanol blends become available, there be incentives to promote their use and acceptance. (this represents a combined recommendation, one that Dennis Gruenbacher moved, seconded by John Pracht, and one that Clay Diediker moved, seconded by Dale Peterson)

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Referred to the KFB Resolutions Committee (KFB-RC)
- The following language passed the KFB-RC, was shared with members at Listening Posts throughout the state during the fall and was voted in by members at the 2008 KFB Annual Meeting, fourth paragraph, AG-7 (Agricultural Product Utilization):

**We support reduced state fuel tax rates on biodiesel and ethanol blends of E20 and greater. As additional blends of ethanol become available, they should be taxed at a rate similar to E85. Biodiesel should be taxed at a lower rate than 100% fossil-based diesel.**

- Status: Completed

- 2) Feedgrains and Oilseeds Recommendation for State Policy Development: TU-1, New paragraph  
**We support a “farm-use” exemption for ATV’s and utility vehicles on county roads and state highways when used for ag-related business.**

Explanation: Many farmers use these vehicles to check irrigation systems, fields and pastures and often this requires them to travel on state highways and county roads for short, limited distances. These vehicles are already required to have all of the safety equipment that is required of motorcycles, including lights, brake lights, turning signals, mirrors, etc., so they should be not be a safety concern. (Dennis Gruenbacher moved, seconded by John Pracht)

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Referred to the KFB Resolutions Committee (KFB-RC)
- The following language passed the KFB-RC, was shared with members at Listening Posts throughout the state during the fall and was voted in by members at the 2008 KFB Annual Meeting, third paragraph, TU-1 (Agricultural Transportation):

**ATV’s and micro-utility trucks used in farming and ranching should be statutorily defined as implements of husbandry.**

- Status: Completed

- 3) Feedgrains and Oilseeds Recommendation for Board Action: **To continue to monitor and inform members regarding the cost and availability of fertilizer and other crop inputs; emphasis should be placed on protecting the interests of our membership and ensuring that price manipulation and gouging are not occurring.**

Explanation: Fertilizer and other crop input prices have increased substantially over the last few years, as global demand has increased, U.S. production capacity decreased and U.S. dependence on imports increased substantially. This evolving crop input situation requires careful attention in order to protect American farmers. (Craig Poore moved, seconded by Dennis Gruenbacher)

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Referred to KFB Staff for Evaluation
- This recommendation was forwarded to Mark Nelson for evaluation and action.
- Staff Action: Commodities and Governmental Relations Division staff are and will continue to coordinate with appropriate AFBF personnel to monitor this situation and ensure that price



manipulation and/or gouging is not occurring. At the farm level, Agricultural Solutions, through the *Revenue Protection Solution* program has several tools and strategies designed to assist producers in managing the risk associated with higher fertilizer prices. These services are available to ALL Kansas Farm Bureau members.

- Status: Completed

4) Feedgrains and Oilseeds Recommendation for Board Action: **To more aggressively pursue our current policy (AG-25 paragraph 6) with regard to developing state approved regulations/standards for moisture meters used for testing grain moisture.**

Explanation: Currently Kansas does not have a uniform program for ensuring the accuracy of moisture meters used in grain commerce. As a result, moisture levels measured at one elevator may vary significantly from the readings found at a different elevator. Our policy, AG-25, paragraph six states, "We support legislation requiring the Kansas Department of Agriculture to establish rules, regulations, specifications and standards for inspection of grain analyzers used in commerce in the State of Kansas." (Craig Poore moved, seconded by Dennis Gruenbacher)

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Referred to KFB Staff for Evaluation
- This recommendation was forwarded to Harry Watts for evaluation and action. Governmental Relations Division staff will discuss this issue with the Kansas Department of Agriculture.
- Status: Completed

5) Feedgrains and Oilseeds Recommendation for Board Action: **To continue to monitor and pursue the committee's previously suggested changes to RMA-based crop insurance planting dates.**

Explanation: Previously, the Crop Committees had forwarded two suggested changes to crop insurance planting dates and KFB staff has worked with RMA to implement them as part of RMA's goal of combining the various products (CRC, RA and APH) into a single policy. Currently though, these efforts are on hold within the agency but RMA staff believes that this will provide the best opportunity to pursue our suggested changes. In summary, the suggestions are as follows:

- a. Final Planting date for Wheat: To push the final planting dates back for 23 Kansas counties (5 to 15 days) to better align them with KSU Agronomy suggested ranges.
- b. Initial Planting date for Corn: To take the southeastern most 35 counties that had an initial planting date of April 1 and create a "transition zone," with the initial planting date pushed forward to March 20.

Dale Peterson moved, seconded by Craig Poore

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Received and Filed
- Status: Completed

## *Hay and Forage Advisory Committee Recommendations*

- 1) Hay and Forage Recommendation for Board Action: **To submit comments regarding USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) notice of intent (NOI) to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for alfalfa genetically engineered for tolerance to the herbicide Glyphosate, or Roundup. The comments should state current Farm Bureau policy 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 supportive of both conventional and organic farming, as well as the use of biotechnology. As an organization, we believe that advancements in biotechnology like Roundup Ready alfalfa seed can improve marketability, ease environmental concerns, raise farmer income by lowering costs and improve the overall quality and quantity of farm products. Currently, the use of Roundup Ready alfalfa has been held up by a court order requiring USDA to conduct an environmental impact study (EIS). USDA has already researched this issue, looking at all of the points necessary. This EIS will merely represent a reiteration of work already done. The committee asks that Kansas Farm Bureau submit comments and urge USDA to work as quickly as possible on this issue so that Roundup Ready alfalfa may more quickly become available to Kansas growers.

(Tom Phillips moved, seconded by Brian Dunn)

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Received and Filed
- Staff Action: Farm Bureau has policy in support of this recommendation and a letter (see appendix – 1) was submitted.
- Status: Completed

- 2) Hay and Forage Recommendation for Board Action: **To assign appropriate staff to develop a fact sheet and/or web page with the current status of laws and regulations pertaining to farmer transportation issues.**

Explanation: (motion by common consent)

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Referred to KFB Staff for Evaluation
- This recommendation was forwarded to Holly Higgins and Warren Parker for evaluation and action.
- Staff Action: Because of the time and difficulty in maintaining correctly updated fact sheets and/or web pages, KFB Safety Division staff in concert with KFB Web Development, have created a new web page that contains links to the various agencies responsible for maintaining the current status of laws and regulations pertaining to their jurisdiction.  
<http://www.kfb.org/safety/default.htm#COMPLIANCE>
- Status: Completed

- 3) Hay and Forage Recommendation for Board Information: **The committee appreciates the KFB Board's work on the issue of animal welfare and supports continued efforts in this area. The committee encourages KFB to appeal to consumers' emotional side versus the scientific side.**

Explanation: (Tom Phillips moved, seconded by Steve Porubsky)

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Received and Filed
- Status: Completed

- 4) Hay and Forage Recommendation for Board Information: **The committee urges Farm Bureau to continue to work on a viable guest worker program for agricultural workers and seasonal work force; especially for forage harvesting crews.**

Explanation: (Brian Dunn moved, seconded by Tom Phillips)

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Received and Filed
- Status: Completed

5) Hay and Forage Recommendation for Board Information: **The committee urges Farm Bureau to continue working on transportation issues in relation to farmer exemptions. Anhydrous tanks and fuel tank exemptions are of particular concern.**

Explanation: (Tom Phillips moved, seconded by Steve Porubsky)

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Received and Filed
- Status: Completed

6) Hay and Forage Recommendation for Board Information: **With rising input costs, hay producers would like continued research in insurance programs designed for hay or input cost protection and Ag Solutions programs that could be used on forage crops. The committee supports the RMA Pasture, Rangeland, Forage Pilot insurance program and expansion into Kansas.**

Explanation: (Charlie Stroble moved, seconded by Don Dillinger)

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Received and Filed
- Status: Completed

## *Sheep and Goat Advisory Committee Recommendations*

- 1) Sheep and Goat Recommendation for State Policy Development: AT-4, added to the last sentence of paragraph one

**, and goats should be classified as an agricultural livestock species and afforded the same tax exempt status as other major livestock species in the state.**

Explanation: Currently, many agribusinesses in Kansas charge goat producers sales tax on feed and supplies purchased for goat production, maintaining that they are not a major livestock species. The Sheep and Goat Committee believes that goat production is a commercial livestock enterprise and should be afforded the same tax exemptions that other livestock in Kansas receive. (Mike Delange moved, seconded by Alan Radcliffe)

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Referred to the KFB Resolutions Committee (KFB-RC)
- The following language passed the KFB-RC, was shared with members at Listening Posts throughout the state during the fall and was voted in by members at the 2008 KFB Annual Meeting, first paragraph, last line, AT-4 (Tax Exemptions and Credits):

**Goats should be classified as an agricultural livestock species and afforded the same tax exempt status as other major livestock species in the state.**

- Status: Completed

- 2) Sheep and Goat Recommendation for Board Action: **To continue to support the newly established Sheep/Goat Specialist position at Kansas State University and highlight his expertise in goat production that is now available to Kansas Goat producers, by including an article in Kansas Living or the Farm Leader Letter.**

Explanation: The committee appreciates Kansas Farm Bureau and the KFB Board's efforts and support in maintaining a sheep specialist position and expanding its focus to include goat production, at Kansas State University. The committee believes that it is important to inform members – those with sheep and goat enterprises in particular – that the Extension State Sheep & Goat Specialist position is filled and that Dr. Farris has expertise in both goat and sheep production. Counties should be encouraged to invite Dr. Farris to participate in local educational events. (Mike Delange moved, seconded by Keith McNickle)

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Referred to KFB Staff for Evaluation
- This recommendation was forwarded to Mike Matson for evaluation and action.
- Staff Action: Three separate informational updates were developed and published through the KFB Communications Division. A piece in the fall, 2008 *Kansas Living* (reached all voting and associate members) see appendix – 2. In addition, the following was included in the May 9, 2008 issue of the *Farm Leader Letter* (reached all voting members) and also made available for the *KFB e-news* (reaches another 2,000 members).

### **New sheep and goat resource**

Kansas producers involved in goat or sheep production have a valuable resource right here in Kansas. Dr. Brian Farris is the new Extension State Sheep & Goat Specialist for Kansas State University and brings extensive background and expertise in both goat and sheep production. Farris grew up raising registered and commercial Rambouillet sheep and Angora goats on the Edwards Plateau in Sonora, Texas. He showed market lambs for 12 years and was extremely active in numerous other 4-H projects throughout his career. He has three degrees in animal science. Individuals or county Farm Bureau organizations may contact him at bfaris@ksu.edu or (785) 532-1255.

- Status: Completed

## Swine Advisory Committee Recommendations

- 1) Swine Recommendation for National Policy Development: AFBF Policy #125, add to line 38

Farm operators who meet the current exempt motor carrier definition found in 49 CFR 390.5 relating to agricultural activity should be exempt from Federal Motor Carrier regulations including mileage limitations when conducting normal agricultural operations even when state boundaries are crossed.

**Until such action is taken, we support expanding the mileage radius that a “farm vehicle driver” can operate a commercial motor vehicle to 250 air-miles of the farmer’s farm, along with exempting pickups and goosenecks.**

Explanation: Today’s farmers are hauling more products, longer distances as compared to when the law was initiated. (Terry Olsen moved, second not recorded)

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Referred to the KFB Resolutions Committee (KFB-RC)
- In July, the KFB-RC discussed this recommendation and chose not to forward it.
- Status: Completed

- 2) Swine Recommendation for State Policy Development: CNR-17, added paragraph, after paragraph one

**When remodeling, changing the management of, or replacing an existing, permitted facility, producers should not be required to “re-permit,” if they are remaining within the existing permitted animal units.**

Explanation: Currently, if a producer replaces a building on a permitted unit, they must go through a “re-permitting” process whereby the permit application is publicly listed as either a new facility or an expansion. This is not only an inaccurate description of what is actually occurring but it is time consuming for the producer and the public notification process potentially create undue alarm among neighbors and activists. (Max Meneffee moved, seconded by Leon Dunn)

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Referred to the KFB Resolutions Committee (KFB-RC)
- The following language passed the KFB-RC, was shared with members at Listening Posts throughout the state during the fall and was voted in by members at the 2008 KFB Annual Meeting, second paragraph, CNR-17 (Waste Management):

**When remodeling, changing the management of, or replacing an existing, permitted facility, producers should not be required to “re-permit,” if they are remaining within the existing permitted animal units.**

- Status: Completed

- 3) Swine Recommendation for Board Action: **To make a high priority of finding legal and regulatory solutions to the challenges associated with transporting NH3 nurse tanks.**

Explanation: (motion by common consent)

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Referred to KFB Staff for Evaluation
- This recommendation was forwarded to Harry Watts for evaluation and action. Governmental Relations Division staff will be discussing this issue with several other state Farm Bureaus, working toward a practical solution for this issue.
- Status: Completed

- 4) Swine Recommendation for Board Action: **To make a high priority of our current feral hog policy and encourage the Kansas Animal Health Department to work more aggressively to eradicate feral swine populations in Kansas.**

Explanation: Feral swine continue to destroy crops and spread disease in portions of Kansas and it will only be through an organized and aggressive program, that these populations will be eradicated. (Leon Dunn moved, seconded by Terry Olsen) )

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Referred to KFB Staff for Evaluation
- This recommendation was forwarded to Steve Swaffar for evaluation and action.
- Staff Action: It is believed that the State is currently doing an adequate job. Feral hogs do represent a problem in some areas of the state, particularly in isolated pockets on and adjacent to public lands. However, it is not a statewide problem and KFB policy is more than adequate at this point AG-9, CNR-4 and CNR-22.

Two years ago the Legislature passed a bill that prevented feral swine from being considered a game species, so there is no established hunting season on feral swine and hunters cannot legally hunt them without a special permit from a landowner. KFB supported the bill. The permits are obtained from the Animal Health Department and Wildlife and Parks at a landowner request. However landowners can shoot, trap, or poison feral swine anytime without need for a permit.

The State and APHIS are also undertaking eradication efforts on an annual basis. This has been going on for about five years but was formalized more in 2006. A White Paper that summarizes these efforts is available on the KFB Ag Advisory Committee webpage, <http://www.kfb.org/commodities/advisorycommittees.htm> .

To achieve more would require the establishment of a more formal eradication program under Animal Health and the associated funding for additional staff, vehicles, traps, ammunition etc. Under the current budgetary climate, obtaining the necessary state funding would be difficult if not impossible to achieve.

Lastly, KFB Natural Resources and Governmental staff routinely converse with Legislators and Animal Health staff, keeping track of control and eradication efforts. While current progress in controlling and eradicating feral swine is believed to be adequate, if the problem becomes more widespread or progress stalls, Kansas Farm Bureau may want to consider policy and funding alternatives.

- Status: Completed

5) Swine Recommendation for Board Action: **To create an internal, KFB list of livestock facilities that could be used for farrowing hogs and milking cows in an emergency.**

Explanation: Whether it is a weather or animal disease emergency, there will likely be times when livestock must be relocated and managed. An internal, KFB list of facilities and contact people, would be of great service to members. (Leon Dunn moved, seconded by Terry Olsen)

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Referred to KFB Staff for Evaluation
- This recommendation was forwarded to Holly Higgins and the KFB Animal Welfare Team for evaluation and action.
- Staff Action: No action was taken by KFB staff because this recommendation is being met through other state/county efforts.

**1. Many counties already have a plan in place.** In June of 2004, the Kansas Animal Health Department asked County Emergency Management to create an Animal Disease Addendum to their Emergency Plan. At the same time, county Farm Bureaus were encouraged to initiate the contact and offer to serve on planning committees. If they haven't done so already, this is a perfect opportunity for county Farm Bureaus to partner with County Emergency Management

KAHD suggested the team developing the plan include law enforcement, fire, EMS, county commissions, county extension, Farm Service Agency, veterinarians and *livestock producers*. It's important to note that no two counties will be the same.

Plans were to identify:

- Locations (chutes) for off-loading cattle and hogs
- Means of providing food and water
- Location of pens available for keeping livestock
- Possible sources of livestock panels
- Burial areas and sourcing equipment for high concentrations of livestock

**To find out if your county has an Animal Disease Addendum** contact your County Emergency Management office or the Kansas Animal Health Dept. First of all, check with your County Emergency Coordinator to see if your county has an emergency plan for foreign animal disease in place, and that a copy of the finished plan has been sent to the Kansas Animal Health Department. You can find out who your County Coordinator is at [www.kansas.gov/kdem](http://www.kansas.gov/kdem). Or call Kansas Department of Emergency Management at (785) 274-1409, and ask for Anne Allen. If your County does not have a plan, and you would like to help protect your county by forming a plan, contact Kansas Animal Health Department at (785) 296-2326. Ask for Karen Domer.

**Who has better knowledge than the producers in the area?** By working with their County Emergency Management personnel, a common sense approach to a foreign animal disease outbreak as well as disaster management can be achieved.

**2. Premises ID – The bottom line is; protect your livelihood by protecting your livestock.**

“By registering with Locate In 48, farmers and ranchers are taking an active role in disease prevention and containment in Kansas. With this simple step, you make great strides toward protecting your animals and your livelihood.” George Teagarden, Livestock Commissioner, Kansas Animal Health Department

Whether the disease is the cause of the disaster or the result of a disaster, registering your premises will enhance response time in the event of disaster or disease. [www.locatein48.com](http://www.locatein48.com)

**3. State Animal Response Teams (SART)** are interagency state organizations dedicated to preparing, planning, responding and recovering during animal emergencies in the United States. SART is a public private partnership, joining government agencies with the private concerns around the common goal of animal issues during disasters. SART programs train participants to facilitate a safe, environmentally sound and efficient response to animal emergencies on the local, county, state and federal level. The teams are organized under the auspices of state and local emergency management utilizing the principles of the Incident Command System (ICS).

- **Kansas State Animal Response Team** – (KSSART) was formed in 2004, they recently held their first training conference in Wichita. The group's main goal is to expand the 13 animal

response teams already at work in Kansas and spread them across the state. About 100 veterinarians, animal control officers and emergency responders met to learn more about victims often overlooked in disasters, pets and livestock.

In addition to organizing the response teams, the two day conference was aimed at training people to provide shelter and first aid for animals, recruit volunteers, *deal with livestock* and exotic animals, manage stress and handle aggressive animals.

Christen Skaer, DVM, KS SART Director, KS State Animal Rescue, 650 SE Central Box 160, Wichita KS 67206, 316-619-1723, [administrator@KSSART.org](mailto:administrator@KSSART.org) , e-mail [www.kssart.org](http://www.kssart.org)

- Status: Completed

- 6) Swine Recommendation for Board Information: **Given that The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights (AVAR) have approved a corporate combination agreement which will result in a new veterinary advocacy organization, the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association (HSVMA) aimed at veterinarians, veterinary students and veterinary technicians, it is more important than ever that farm advocacy groups work with veterinary schools to communicate our message.**

Explanation: (motion by common consent)

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Received and Filed
- Status: Completed

- 7) Swine Recommendation for Board Information: **After the tornado that wrecked much of their confinement swine operation forced them to utilize open pens, Leon Dunn can attest that animal welfare did not improve. In their situation, death loss increased and conception rates decreased.**

Explanation: (motion by common consent)

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Received and Filed
- Status: Completed

- 8) Swine Recommendation for Board Information: **In our organization's efforts to tell our story regarding animal management and care issues, the committee suggests that Farm Bureau invite media and legislators to hog farms. The committee would be happy to assist in these efforts.**

Explanation: (motion by common consent)

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Received and Filed
- Status: Completed

## *Wheat Advisory Committee Recommendations*

- 1) Wheat Recommendation for Board Action: **To communicate to Kansas State University, the need and importance of increasing the current level of research and development of hard red wheat varieties.**

Explanation: While hard white wheat varieties may improve, and production in the future may expand, the committee believes that hard red wheat represents the present and that there currently is not adequate research and development of HRW varieties. As a result, wheat yield gains and acreage in Kansas may suffer. (Lance Tishhauser moved, seconded by Gerald Barnes)

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Referred to KFB Staff for Evaluation
- This recommendation was forwarded to Mark Nelson for evaluation and action.
- Staff Action: Given the emergence of the Kansas Wheat Alliance for added wheat research, higher wheat prices (increasing checkoff funds), the impending increase in the wheat assessment and a phone conversation between Mark Nelson and Alan Fritz (KSU Wheat Breeder), it was determined that further action, such as a formal letter, was not necessary at this time. Given these recent changes, additional HRW research will likely result but it is suggested that the KFB Wheat Advisory Committee revisit this issue again in 2009 to monitor progress and determine if further action is warranted.
- Status: Completed

- 2) Wheat Recommendation for Board Action: **To more aggressively pursue our current policy (AG-25 paragraph 6) with regard to developing state approved regulations/standards for moisture meters used for testing grain moisture.**

Explanation: Currently Kansas does not have a uniform program for ensuring the accuracy of moisture meters used in grain commerce. As a result, moisture levels measured at one elevator may vary significantly from the readings found at a different elevator. Our policy, AG-25, paragraph six states, "We support legislation requiring the Kansas Department of Agriculture to establish rules, regulations, specifications and standards for inspection of grain analyzers used in commerce in the State of Kansas." (Sid Burkholder moved, seconded by Richard Polcyn)

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Referred to KFB Staff for Evaluation
- This recommendation was forwarded to Harry Watts for evaluation and action. Governmental Relations Division staff will discuss this issue with the Kansas Department of Agriculture.
- Status: Completed

- 3) Wheat Recommendation for Board Action: **To continue to monitor and pursue the previously suggested changes to RMA-based crop insurance planting dates.**

Explanation: Previously, the Crop Committees had forwarded two suggested changes to crop insurance planting dates and KFB staff has worked with RMA to implement them as part of RMA's goal of combining the various products (CRC, RA and APH) into a single policy. Currently though, these efforts are on hold within the agency but RMA staff believes that this will provide the best opportunity to pursue our suggested changes. In summary, the suggestions are as follows:

- a. Final Planting date for Wheat: To push the final planting dates back for 23 Kansas counties (5 to 15 days) to better align them with KSU Agronomy suggested ranges.
  - b. Initial Planting date for Corn: To take the southeastern most 35 counties that had an initial planting date of April 1 and create a "transition zone," with the initial planting date pushed forward to March 20.
  - c. Dennis Swenson moved, seconded by Bill Luebbers
- Board Action: 3/27/08, Received and Filed
  - Status: Completed

- 4) Wheat Recommendation for Board Information: **It is important that KFB and AFBF monitor congress and the administration, aggressively advocating for agricultural trade.**

Explanation: Farm Bureau policy is clear regarding trade and embargoes but with grain ending stocks down and prices high, the committee is concerned that actions may be taken to restrict or limit trade of certain commodities. (Richard Polcyn moved, seconded by Bill Luebbers)

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Received and Filed
- Status: Completed

- 5) Wheat Recommendation for Board Information: **The committee commends and supports KFB actions regarding transportation, motor carrier regulations and KCC interpretations of interstate and intrastate transit, and suggests continued diligence in monitoring transportation issues.**

Explanation: (Dennis Swenson moved, seconded by Bill Luebbers)

- Board Action: 3/27/08, Received and Filed
- Status: Completed

## APPENDIX – 1

February 6, 2008

**Attention: Rick Coker**

Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Station 3A-03.8

4700 River Road, Unit 118

Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

**Re: Docket No. APHIS-2007-0044**

I am writing to convey Kansas Farm Bureau comments regarding USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) notice of intent (NOI) to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for alfalfa genetically engineered for tolerance to the herbicide Glyphosate, or Roundup. Kansas Farm Bureau is the largest farm organization in Kansas with nearly 40,000 voting, farmer and rancher members, and a Hay and Forage Advisory Committee that provides insight and input to our policy process. Kansas is a significant alfalfa production state, harvesting 850,000 acres in 2007.

Farm Bureau policy at both the state and national levels clearly supports conventional and organic farming, as well as the use of biotechnology. We believe that advancements in biotechnology like Roundup Ready alfalfa seed can improve marketability, ease environmental concerns, raise farmer income by lowering costs and improve the overall quality and quantity of farm products. We also believe that farmers who want to share in these benefits can co-exist with those farmers who choose to produce crops without the use of biotechnology.

We have reviewed the three alternatives proposed in the NOI along with the list of eighteen issues the agency proposes to address in the EIS and believe they are appropriate and adequate in scope for APHIS to make a science-based determination regarding the deregulation of alfalfa lines J101 and J138.

Several of the issues raise the question of gene flow or low-level presence of glyphosate-tolerant alfalfa in other crops. We suggest the agency establish criteria for the safe, low-level occurrence of genetically engineered glyphosate-tolerant alfalfa, as well as for other genetically engineered crops, that would not present a safety concern and would be "non-actionable" if detected in other crops. Such criteria should not absolve developers from enforcement actions related to permit or regulatory violations.

Kansas Farm Bureau applauds USDA-APHIS's efforts and appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in response to the Agency's notice to prepare an EIS. More importantly, we encourage the agency to act as rapidly as possible in conducting the EIS and effecting the necessary regulatory revisions that will facilitate safe, science-based oversight of this biotechnology product.

Sincerely,

Mark Nelson  
Director of Commodities  
Kansas Farm Bureau

## New opportunities with KFB's BVS

Kansas Farm Bureau's Beef Verification Solution is partnering with the Iowa Cattlemen's Association's Data Management and Animal Identification Programs. The partnership makes both programs more efficient and provides unique animal ID solutions for producers.

The Beef Verification Solution is now active in six states, including Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, Oklahoma and Mississippi. Solutions available to members include source and age verification, the ability to manage and analyze animal data such as gain and carcass information, all while complying with the National Animal Identification System (NAIS).



Henke

Fawna Henke has been hired as KFB's BVS program coordinator. Henke, who grew up on an Osborne County cattle operation, will primarily support Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado-based Verification Centers and

work with producers to offer solutions for animal identification, age/source verification and National Animal Identification System compliance.

Interested producers should contact their nearest BVS Verification Center by calling 1-800-405-3053 ext. 6141 or visiting [www.agsolusa.com/bvs](http://www.agsolusa.com/bvs).

## Sheep & Goat Resource

Kansas producers involved in goat or sheep production have a valuable resource right here in Kansas.

Dr. Brian Fairs is the new Extension State Sheep & Goat Specialist for Kansas State University and brings extensive background and expertise in both goat and sheep production.

Fairs grew up raising registered and commercial Rambouillet sheep and Angora goats on the Edwards Plateau in Sonora, Texas. He showed market lambs for 12 years and was extremely active in numerous other 4-H projects throughout his career. He has three degrees in animal science.

Individuals or county FBs may contact him at [bfairs@ksu.edu](mailto:bfairs@ksu.edu) or (785) 532-1255.

## NER on the open range

The KFB Natural & Environmental Resources Committee spent two days in southwest Kansas in July, learning more about current environmental/energy issues impacting agriculture. The committee toured the Spearville Wind Farm in Ford County and spent some time on the Giles ranch in Clark County, a commercial cow-calf, stocker-feeder operation utilizing dominantly native grasses on open rangeland. (L-R, Roger Giles (host,) committee members Justin Knopf, Saline County; Theron Haresnape, Smith County; J.D. Hanna, Shawnee County and Charles Leiringer, Stevens County.



## Protect your livelihood

Brought to you by the Kansas Animal Health Department, Locate in 48, is a new system that will allow 48-hour trace back if an animal disease outbreak were to occur.

This system will help protect animals, increase consumer confidence in the nation's food supply, better connect producers to the global marketplace and protect the Kansas

way of life. It is also a perfect fit with KFB's Beef Verification Solution.

"KFB's BVS is designed to work hand-in-hand with this program," says Mark Nelson, KFB's commodities director.

For more information visit [Kansas.LocateIn48.com](http://Kansas.LocateIn48.com).

**This animal could help maximize your profits.**  
**How can you better connect to the global marketplace?**

Take the first step. Register your premises today.  
[Kansas.LocateIn48.com](http://Kansas.LocateIn48.com) | 785-296-2326

**LOCATE IN 48**  
 All Kansas Producers