



KANSAS FARM BUREAU®  
The Voice of Agriculture®

**2020 KFB Agricultural Advisory Committee  
Recommendations**

Updated March 12, 2020

Summary Data	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
For National Policy Development <sup>1</sup>	3	6 - 3	1 - 0	2 - 0	2 - 2	3 - 2	5 - 4	5 - 3
For State Policy Development	3	5 - 5	3 - 3	1 - 0	4 - 4	2 - 1	1 - 1	6 - 6
For Board Action	3	5	7	6	5	3	3	4
For Board Information	8	3	6	13	2	9	8	7
Total Recommendations	17	19	17	22	13	17	17	22

***Beef Committee***

Beef Committee Recommendation for Board Information

**The committee reviewed section 14 of the AFBF policy 344 / Labeling and support the changes made during the 2020 AFBF delegate session.**

- Board Action: Received and Filed.

Beef Committee Recommendation for Board Information

**The committee commends KFB staff on the “Make Mine Meat” campaign and appreciates the efforts to promote the benefits of beef.**

- Board Action: Received and Filed.

***Dairy Committee***

Dairy Committee Recommendation for State Policy Development

**AG-19 Food Safety and Security**

**Whereas the consumption of raw milk is a known public health risk, we support the registration of farms that sell raw milk to provide traceability in the event of an illness. We also support state inspection of such facilities, and the costs of these registrations and inspections being supported by those producers. Furthermore, we support the labeling of raw milk as to the potential health risk if consumed in its raw state.**

Explanation: Registrations and inspections will help to maintain a standard of safety to protect consumers. This, along with maintaining the reputation of the dairy industry is vital to Kansans. (Moved by Lynda Foster, seconded by Jon Pretz)

- Board Action: Referred to the Resolutions Committee.

<sup>1</sup> Recommendations for both National and State Policy are recorded as two numbers (i.e. 1 – 1) referring first to the number of recommendations made and then the number that were forwarded and ultimately approved as national or state policy.

## **ENR Committee**

### ENR Committee Recommendation for State Policy Development

Following the meeting, ENR member Byron Finley offered the following language addition to paragraph one of CNR-9.

#### **CNR-9 Natural Resources Protection**

Federal and state cost-sharing is appropriate for conservation compliance and as an incentive for developing and maintaining soil and water conservation. We encourage county conservation districts and the NRCS to establish estimated costs current with the actual commercial construction costs of the county or neighboring counties for the construction of conservation structures (terraces, waterways and etc.) to eliminate misunderstandings about those costs. The cost share rate (percentage, from 50 to 75%) and limits should be used to make adjustments to ration funds when necessary, not the deflation of estimated practice costs.

We support voluntary, incentive-based programs that encourage groundwater conservation.

Explanation: With the increase of absentee landowners unfamiliar with construction cost, it is important to use "real" cost estimates to protect them from "sticker shock" and protect contractors from being underpaid.

- Board Action: Referred to the Resolutions Committee.

The full ENR Committee recommended the following:

#### **WA-8 Water Testing**

A state plan for voluntary ~~to test~~ private water wells testing must provide confidentiality and protect homeowners and farmers from liability. Any plan to enter the test results of any private water wells into a state water quality database should be voluntary. Development of a "cost-sharing" plan could increase participation.

- Board Action: Referred to the Resolutions Committee.

## **Feedgrains Committee**

### Feedgrains Committee Recommendation for National Policy Development

#### 404 / Renewable Fuels

1. We support:

1.6. The Renewable Fuels Standard 2 (RFS2) as passed in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, and that congress maintain administrative control over renewable volume obligations after 2022; and

Explanation: After 2022, the Renewable Fuels Standard will remain in place, but legislative volumes will cease, and administration will go solely to the Environmental Protection Agency. While there is concern, the Feedgrains Advisory believes that keeping volumetric decisions in the control of congress will better ensure that the intent of the RFS2 will continue to be implemented.

- Board Action: Referred to the Resolutions Committee.

Feedgrains Committee Recommendation for National Policy Development  
404 / Renewable Fuels

2. Biofuels 2.1. We support:

2.1.7. Legislative and regulatory approval for **a minimum 95 octane fuel standard** ~~use of higher ethanol blends in low-carbon, high-octane fuels~~ to help automobile manufacturers meet fuel efficiency standards;

2.1.8. Standardization of all new gasoline dispensers to be Underwriters Laboratories (UL) certified for a minimum of E-~~25~~**30**;

Explanation: Ethanol is both a high octane and low carbon fuel component. A national, minimum 95 octane standard would allow automakers to implement new engine technologies to increase fuel efficiency which would reduce emissions, and quite likely circumvent the need for a patchwork of state-based, low carbon fuel standards. Hand-in-hand with this is the need to increase the allowable level of ethanol in fuel mixes for gasoline dispensers (moved by Alex V., seconded by Tom P. and passed).

- Board Action: Referred to the Resolutions Committee.

Feedgrains Committee Recommendation for Board Information

**The committee agrees with RMA's current approach and policies regarding crops following another crop.**

Explanation: In some counties it is acceptable to plant another crop (i.e. grain sorghum) after another crop such as wheat, and it is part of the crop policy. In some counties, insurance is available for double crop by written agreement only, and in some counties, any crop following another crop is uninsurable. The committee heard from RMA, discussed the issue and agree with current RMA rules (passed by consensus).

- Board Action: Received and Filed.

Feedgrains Committee Recommendation for Board Information

**The committee asks that staff contact Kansas-based crop consultants for their recommendations for crop planting dates.**

Explanation: Crop insurance final planting dates are based on historical RMA loss data; historical rainfall, temperature and freeze data; **along with university specialist and crop consultant recommendations**. As rotations and varieties have evolved, farmers are finding that later planted corn is often advantageous but sometimes these later dates conflict with RMA late planting guidelines (moved by Alex V., seconded by Tom P. and passed).

- Board Action: Received and Filed.

Feedgrains Committee Recommendation for Board Information

**The committee requests that KFB develop and make available to members, one-page factsheets designed to assist them as they communicate with consumers about agricultural practices.**

Explanation: The committee believes that consumers and the sometimes the media are somewhat biased against agriculture and understand that it is in their best interest to personally communicate and defend their practices. The goal of the factsheets would be to better equip members for these communications (moved by Bruce T., seconded by Mark B. and passed).

- Board Action: Received and Filed.

### ***Hay & Forage Committee***

Hay and Forage Committee Recommendation for Board Information

**The committee is firmly opposed to both Old World Bluestem (OWB) being listed as a Noxious Weed or any type of OWB Quarantine being implemented in Kansas.**

Explanation: Admittedly, Old World Bluestem is an invasive species that is a threat to Kansas native range. It has been officially identified in nearly every county in Kansas, and there is currently no effective method for mitigation or eradication, without destroying nearby native species. The primary concern of the committee is any potential limits a quarantine might have on the transportation of hay in and out of the quarantine area, and the economic impact it would have on hay growers and the hay industry.

Committee concerns include:

- Because OWB seeds can be spread by attaching to clothes, cattle, birds, flooding, roadside mowing equipment, etc., the committee would oppose any quarantine that included hay, without adequately addressing these other potential vectors.
- Because OWB cannot be effectively controlled at this time, any quarantine would potentially have no end point.
- Implementation of a quarantine that would a) not be effective, and b) financially impact hay growers/sellers. Any quarantine must have a clear and achievable goal and endpoint.

Moved by Kerry W., seconded by Adam I. and passed.

- Board Action: Received and Filed.

### ***Oilseeds Committee***

Oilseeds Committee Recommendation for Board Information

**The committee agrees with RMA's current approach and policies regarding crops following another crop.**

Explanation: In some counties it is acceptable to plant another crop (i.e. soybeans) after another crop such as wheat, and it is part of the crop policy. The number of counties where this is possible is growing in Kansas. In some counties, insurance is available for double crop by written agreement only, and this number is also growing. And lastly, in some counties, any crop following another crop is uninsurable. The committee heard from RMA, discussed the issue and agree with current RMA rules and their process for review and adjustments (passed by consensus).

- Board Action: Received and Filed.

### ***Sheep & Goat Committee***

Sheep & Goat Committee Recommendation for Board Action

**The committee recommends KFB staff work with the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Ag Marketing Division and the Kansas Sheep Association to explore options for wool and fiber outlets in the state of Kansas.**

- Board Action: Referred to Staff.

Sheep & Goat Committee Recommendation for Board Action

**The committee recommends KFB staff work in conjunction with the KSU College of Veterinary Medicine and the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association to create a database of veterinarians willing to work with small ruminants and make that information available to producers.**

- Board Action: Referred to Staff.

### **Swine Committee**

Swine Committee Recommendation for National Policy Development

#### **338 / Direct Marketing**

1. We support:

- 1.1. The USDA definition of Direct Marketing Farmers: Farmer-producers that sell their own agricultural products directly to the general public, which includes fruits and vegetables, meat, fish, poultry, dairy products, and grains; and
- 1.2. The USDA recognizing and accepting State Inspection of Meat and Poultry products at USDA facilities.

**1.3. Allowing state inspected meats to be sold across state lines.**

Explanation: Currently, by law, meat products have to be processed at a federally inspected facility in order to be sold in another state. Being able to utilize state inspected plants for out-of-state commerce would provide more options to producers developing niche markets.

- Board Action: Referred to the Resolutions Committee.

Swine Committee Recommendation for Board Information

**The committee supports the AFBF immigrant labor policy and would like the need for year-round livestock workers to be emphasized.**

#### **137 / Immigration**

2. Agricultural Visa Program

- 2.1. We support the complete overhaul of the H-2A guest worker program.
- 2.2. We support establishing an agricultural visa that is portable (at will) or by contract and that also deals with ag sectors that need year-round workers.

- Board Action: Received and Filed.

Swine Committee Recommendation for Board Action

**The committee recommends that KFB hosts an agricultural entrepreneurial seminar.**

Explanation: There are a lot of opportunities for farmers and ranchers to be successful outside of the traditional production practices and marketing channels. An entrepreneurial seminar or workshop would provide a setting for those who are successful in these adventures to provide education, support and encouragement to fellow members looking for opportunities.

- Board Action: Referred to Staff.

### **Wheat Committee**

The committee had great attendance and discussion of several issues, some of which they will continue to research and discuss. They currently have no recommendations.