



KANSAS FARM BUREAU®
The Voice of Agriculture®

Kansas Farm Bureau Policy Development Handbook

Advocacy

Education

Service

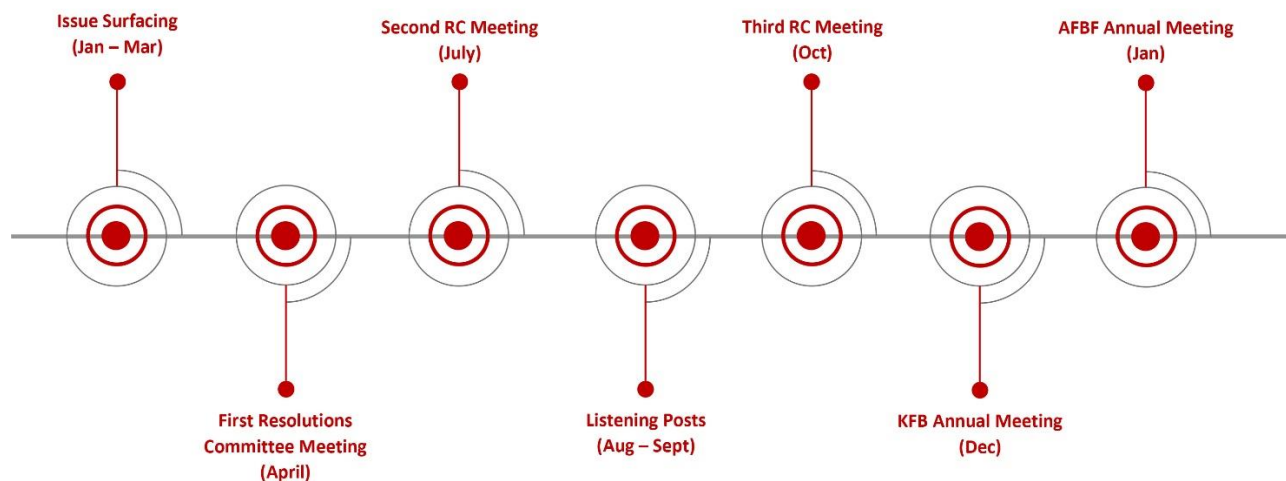
What is Farm Bureau Policy?

Farm Bureau policy outlines the basic principles that guide the organization. As a general farm organization, Farm Bureau works to promote all aspects of agriculture. By creating positions on key policy issues, Farm Bureau can impact the regulations and statutes affecting its members.

The grassroots policy development process provides an opportunity for every voting member to participate and establishes the majority opinion of those members. The policies created from this process provide Farm Bureau members, leadership, lobbyists, and staff with a guide for engaging in policy discussions with other organizations, state and federal agencies and elected officials.

Policy Development Calendar

Developing Farm Bureau policy is a yearlong process, starting in January when members surface ideas, and ending in December when voting delegates adopt the policies and national recommendations during the KFB Annual Meeting.



January – March: Issue surfacing meetings are held in all 10 Farm Bureau districts to provide an opportunity for members to make policy recommendations and raise issues they would like the KFB Resolutions Committee to examine. Issue surfacing also happens through the nine Ag Advisory Committees and the [online form](https://www.kfb.org/advocacy) available to all members on the KFB website, <https://www.kfb.org/advocacy>. More details about the Resolutions and Ag Advisory Committees are available on pages four and five of this document.

April – July: The KFB Resolutions Committee reviews and prioritizes all policy recommendations and seeks further education when needed prior to drafting the tentative resolutions.

August – September: District listening posts give members an opportunity to review and provide input on tentative resolutions.

October: With input from members during the listening post meetings, the Resolutions Committee finalizes the tentative resolutions, which will be presented to the voting delegates during the KFB Annual Meeting.

December: Voting delegates from all of Kansas Farm Bureau's 105 counties gather to adopt the organization's policies during its business session.

January: Voting delegates representing all 51 AFBF member states gather to adopt the national policies of the organization during the business session of the AFBF Annual Meeting.

What Kind of Policy Recommendations can you Submit?

Policy recommendations can be made for either state or national issues. State-level policy in the Kansas Farm Bureau resolutions book is intended to address issues handled by state, county and local governments, their agencies, and other state-level organizations.

American Farm Bureau's policy book guides the organization on national issues when dealing with the federal government and its agencies, in addition to work with other national-level groups.

Recommendations can be submitted in the following action categories:

- New – suggest adding new policy language. Is there a solution included in the proposed language? New policy should be realistic, feasible, within Farm Bureau's scope, well defined, clearly stated and not already addressed in existing Farm Bureau policy.
- Reaffirm – highlighting current policy that requires further action to achieve. Is this a policy Farm Bureau should add to its priority list for next year?
- Amend – requesting a change in existing policy language. Amendments can include a) change in language, b) add to the existing language, c) change the intent of the current language, or d) eliminate a portion of the current language.
- Delete – removing sentences or complete sections. Is this policy a) no longer an issue, b) unrealistic, c) no longer feasible because of current rules/statutes, or d) not well described or unclear?

** When submitting a policy recommendation, make sure to include the policy number, title, line number (when applicable), and the specific language you are recommending adding, amending, or deleting. The current version of both the state and national policy books can be found online at <https://www.kfb.org/advocacy>.

How to Submit a Policy Recommendation

Policy recommendations can be submitted by:

- County boards or individual members presenting recommendations during the district issue surfacing or listing posts meetings. The Resolutions Committee member representing the district will report these recommendations to the full committee.
- County boards or individual members submitting a recommendation by using the [online issue surfacing form](https://www.kfb.org/advocacy), available at <https://www.kfb.org/advocacy>. All online submissions are presented to the full Resolutions Committee.
- Ag Advisory committees submitting policy recommendations to the KFB Board of Directors. Once the board approves the recommendations, they are forwarded to the Resolutions Committee.
- Individual members presenting their recommendation during the open discussion of resolutions during the KFB Annual Meeting (typically held the day prior to the business session).

Resolutions Committee

The KFB Resolutions Committee is made up of one member from each of the 10 Farm Bureau districts. District directors nominate committee members, who are then appointed by the KFB president. Members may serve a maximum of three one-year terms. Two ex-officio members are also appointed to represent the Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee and the Women's Leadership Committee. The KFB vice-president chairs the committee.

All policy recommendations are brought before the Resolutions Committee to review and prioritize. In addition to participating in the KFB Annual Meeting, the committee meets three times a year. This time is spent learning about the topics before it and drafting tentative resolutions to be presented to the voting delegates during the KFB Annual Meeting in December. Committee members also participate in the KFB Annual Meeting.

Resolutions Committee members are responsible for leading issue surfacing and listening post meetings in their districts and reporting a summary of those meetings to the full committee.

The American Farm Bureau Resolutions Committee serves much the same purpose as the state committee, only on a national scale. It reviews policy proposals from all 51 member states and drafts tentative resolutions to be considered by the voting delegates during the AFBF Annual Meeting, thus creating the national policy book.

Ag Advisory Committees

There are seven ag advisory committees representing the major commodities or topics impacting Kansas agriculture – Beef, Environmental & Natural Resources, Feed Grains & Oilseeds, Hay & Forage, Rural Economies, Water and Wheat. These committees serve as advisory committees to the KFB Board of Directors and are made up of one member from each of the 10 Farm Bureau districts. Members are nominated by the district director and appointed by the president to a maximum of three one-year terms. The role of the ag advisory committees is to surface issues specific to the commodity or topic they represent and make recommendations to the KFB Board regarding Farm Bureau’s role in those issues. Those recommendations can be for a) policy development, b) board action, or c) board information.

In addition to the ag advisory committees, emerging issue committees are authorized by the KFB Board when an issue arises that needs to be examined further. These committees operate similar to the ag advisory committees by making recommendations to the KFB Board but will meet for a maximum of two years.

Focus groups have been established for Dairy, Sheep & Goat, and Swine. The focus groups will meet once a year in conjunction with a state-wide event related to the respective sector of the industry, are open to all members, and have the ability to make recommendations to the KFB Board.

If you are interested in adding your perspective to KFB, or joining a committee, [click here](#) (or select the “Get Involved” tab at www.kfb.org) to indicate where you are interested in serving.

For further information, contact:

Nancy Brown, Director of Policy Development

brownn@kfb.org or 785-587-6111