

Straight Rows

Volume 22, Issue 4 | Summer 2018

Colyer signs regulatory-reform bill

Requiring state agencies to report on the effects proposed rules and regulations would have on Kansas businesses before their approval was the aim of HB 2526 during this year's legislative session. The Kansas Soybean Association (KSA) submitted written testimony supporting that notion to the Senate's federal and state affairs committee April 2.

"Soybean farmers operate in heavily regulated industries, and while we agree that regulations may serve a sound purpose, the cost to comply can be high," stated the testimony, bearing the signature of President Lucas Heinen, Everest. "KSA feels that HB 2526 could reduce the cost of doing business, which should translate into higher prices for grain or lower prices for inputs for the farmers."

The bill sought to require agencies to research the potential costs of proposed rules and regulations to businesses before they are submitted to the Legislature and to consult with regulated businesses, their associations, local governments and affected members of the public.

KSA was the only commodity group and one of just three organizations overall – with the Kansas Chamber of Commerce and

Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA) – to testify in support of HB 2526.

When legislators returned for the veto session, HB 2526 had become HB 2280 and was in conference committee. HB 2280 passed the Senate (23–11) May 2 and the House (98–21) May 3.

Rep. Ron Highland, Wamego, vice chairman of the Legislature's administrative rules and regulations committee, said the new law may slow down the process for approving regulations, but in the long run, it will benefit Kansas businesses. He explained agencies will have to provide economic impact information during rule-making and explain why something costs "so much."

Gov. Jeff Colyer, M.D., ceremonially signed the bill May 21 at the KGFA office in Topeka. Representatives of KSA and the Chamber also were on hand, and WIBW-TV 13 News covered the event.

"The burden should be on the government to prove why new rules and regulations are necessary," Colyer said. "We want to make it perfectly clear that Kansas is open for business."

HB 2280 was the final bill presented to the governor this session. All told, 118 of them became law. 



RFS waivers prompt NBB's FOIA request

Biodiesel advocates, including the Kansas Soybean Association and National Biodiesel Board (NBB), asked in a June 4 open letter to President Donald Trump that America's first domestically produced, commercially available advanced biofuel not be ignored in the administration's efforts to navigate differences between petroleum refiners and the ethanol industry.

The letter applauded the president's support for allowing year-round sales of 15 percent ethanol blends but highlighted the move provides no relief to a biodiesel industry that has been hampered repeatedly by federal policy decisions.

In the latest blow to the industry, news reports suggest the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is preparing to recommend no growth in the biodiesel sector during rule-making to set required volume obligations (RVOs) under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS).

"Actions taken by the EPA that undermine the integrity of the RFS and stand in direct contrast to your pledge of support to rural America can be righted with a simple solution – follow the law by increasing advanced biofuels volumes in 2019 and increase volumes of biomass-based diesel in 2020," the letter stated. "This commonsense action will support American biodiesel producers, diversify domestic refining capacity and provide much-needed economic support to rural America."

In mid-April, NBB continued its push-back against EPA's misguided decision to grant widespread and overreaching RFS exemptions to petroleum refiners in secret. It coordinated with other advocates to issue an April 9 letter to Trump to stop all waivers in favor of a more impartial and transparent process.

NBB also issued a news release urging transparency at EPA and a detailed Freedom

 *continued on page 2*



Let's replace stubbornness, entitlement, selfishness with vision, ambition, effort

A global trade imbalance has been looming for decades, like a slow-moving storm on the horizon, and on the morning of April 4, when China announced retaliatory tariffs, we got the first taste of its fury. Over the next three days, I spoke with about a half-dozen reporters, including on-camera interviews with Kansas City's KMBC-TV 9 and *The Kansas City Star*.

I was not the only Kansas Soybean Association director who stepped up. Dwight Meyer, Roger Draeger and Kim Kohls took some calls, too. Former American Soybean

Association director Bob Henry came out of "retirement" for one. Bob Haselwood and Dennis Gruenbacher, both past chairmen of the Kansas Soybean Commission, also helped explain our industry's side to the news media.

Through all of that and as your Association recently has prepared testimony to take to the Statehouse and correspondence to send to Congress and the administration, we have resisted the urge to join the cacophony of trade groups that are playing the victim card.

That seems to be a popular strategy in America today. From the "war on Christmas" and college-campus "microaggressions" to identity politics that seek to pit one group against another, it feels like we are becoming a nation of victims.

Victimhood actually makes it more difficult to resolve conflict. That mentality crowds out good-faith disagreement and the required give-and-take. Every difference in position becomes a fierce battle between "us" and "them." Arthur Brooks of the American Enterprise Institute has said it also makes us worse citizens: less helpful, more entitled and more selfish.

Of course, some people truly are victims of crime, discrimination, persecution or

indifference. They need and deserve our help. If we can separate their real struggles from the widespread, knee-jerk claims of victimhood, we can promote a society and an industry based on economic reality, vision, ambition and honest efforts.

I leave you with four quotes that can help us overcome the temptation to be "victims."

- ◆ "There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies." – Martin Luther King Jr., clergyman and civil-rights leader
- ◆ "Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge the future." – Paul Boese, Kansas businessman and philosopher
- ◆ "At the heart of all anger, all grudges and all resentment, you'll always find a fear that hopes to stay anonymous." – Donald Hicks, author, *Look Into the Stillness*
- ◆ "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you so that you may be children of your Father in heaven, for He causes His sun to rise on the bad as well as the good and sends down rain to fall on the upright and the wicked alike." – Matthew 5:44-45

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Your story of how conservation is part of your farming enterprise could make you the next winner of a Conservation Legacy Award. The program showcases soybean farmers' management practices that are both environmentally friendly and profitable.

All U.S. soybean farmers are eligible to enter. Judges will select winners based on soil, water, input and environmental management; conservation; and sustainability.

More information about past winners and how to apply is available at <http://SoyGrowers.com/conservation-legacy> on the web. Applications are due in early September. 🌱

RFS waivers

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of Information Act request trying to determine the exact effect the exemptions might have on biodiesel volumes. They might affect more than a billion gallons, hundreds of millions of which could be biodiesel.

The American Soybean Association and National Renderers Association joined NBB April 12 in sending a letter to Trump to point out how EPA's actions were not reflecting his commitment to protect and support the RFS. The letter illustrated the significant potential for harm across the entire supply chain.

"Recent actions by the EPA have undermined President Trump's commitment to support consumer access to domestic renewable fuel and rural economies supported by upholding a strong Renewable Fuel Standard," said Kurt Kovarik, NBB's vice president of federal affairs. "The EPA's decision to give large, profitable refiners free passes is hurting biodiesel producers, renderers and farmers. If the president is serious about keeping his promise, he needs to pay attention."

NBB also continued to explore legal actions and arguments against the exemptions. 🌱

Thank you, corporate partners

Corporate partners and advertisers are extremely important to the overall effort of the Kansas Soybean Association. They provide the Association with financial support and are links to the allied industries that provide soybean farmers with inputs and capital to manage our enterprises. KSA also relies on corporate partners to keep us up-to-date with the latest breakthroughs in production technologies, and we all work together to create and implement environmental and trade policies that benefit the soybean industry.



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SE Kansan serves on leading edge of Association, Commission cooperation

I have been involved in agriculture all my life. In high school, I started farming for others, then in 2001, I bought out those farmers.

With my wife, Elisama, and two sons, Dalton and Luke, we now farm 3,200 tillable acres and have a 550-head cow-calf herd. I also am involved in the Kansas Livestock Association, go to Grace Community Church and enjoy motocross.

In 2003, I believe, Ron Westervelt from Columbus asked me to join the

Kansas Soybean Association (KSA) and take over an unfinished term on the Board of Directors. I felt led to help our soybean industry.

On the Board, I now represent Cherokee County, which gets its own director because it has at least 25 KSA members. I also chair the checkoff-projects committee. KSA is important in developing new uses, promoting trade and much more through its checkoff-funded projects, which will total about \$2 million in fiscal year 2019. ↗



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Directors complete spring chores

What follows are the highlights from the Kansas Soybean Association (KSA) Board of Directors meeting convened March 23 in Topeka.

- Conversed via telephone with the American Soybean Association's lobbyists about trade agreements, tariffs, the omnibus budget bill, biotechnology and chemical regulations, the farm bill, and other federal issues.
- Welcomed Kim Kohls, Moundridge, and Jared Nash, Parsons, as the newest Young Leaders on the Board.
- Reviewed the evaluations from Kansas Soybean Expo 2018 and began planning next year's event.
- Heard a summary of the latest annual strategic planning session with the Kansas Soybean Commission.
- Amended the bylaws to allow more than one Young Leader to join the Board each year.
- Appointed Kohls to fill the vacant seat for District 6.
- Scheduled the summer agribusiness tour in the Wichita area for July 19–21.
- Studied trends and projections for KSA membership numbers.
- Approved the membership and corporate-partnership plans for fiscal year 2019.
- Discussed potential changes to the Yield and Value Contests and the possibility of a national yield contest.

Association members can contact any director or Kenlon Johannes in the office (see page 2) to suggest agenda items for the next Board meeting, July 21 in Wichita. ↗



KSA President Lucas Heinen (upper right), Everest, questions the Roundup panelists. (KSA PHOTO)

ELA Class 5 forming now

The Kansas Soybean Association (KSA) and Kansas Soybean Commission (KSC) are accepting nominations and applications for their Emerging Leaders Academy (ELA). It is a three-part training program that works to instill a select number of agriculture professionals in Kansas with leadership skills and provide successful mentoring opportunities.

ELA's three phases are scheduled to be completed over the course of 18 months. Each teaches participants different subject matter and provides unique opportunities.

Phase 1, Aug. 10–11. Kansas Soybean Building in Topeka. Topics will include the history of KSA and KSC, the growth and development of soybean as a crop and product, leadership training, and opportunities to be involved in the soybean industry.

Phase 2, Nov. 14–16. Statewide tour of Kansas. Stops will cover all things agriculture, including research, transportation, processing, products, equipment, education, livestock, food and consumer issues, and a KSA Board of Directors meeting.

Phase 3, 2019 dates TBD. Mentoring and professional development. Each participant will choose an organization about which to learn and accompany a current farmer-leader to one of its events. The goal will be to gain more in-depth experience and insight into industry involvement.

Interest forms must be submitted by **June 29**. The sooner KSA receives a nomination or application, however, the greater the chance of that person's being selected for the next class. More information can be found at <http://KansasSoybeans.org/ela> on the web. ↗

Ag Roundup features Secretary Perdue, Kansas' senators

May 30, the Kansas Ag Network and its flagship station, WIBW-AM 580 in Topeka, hosted a Kansas Agriculture Roundup at River Creek Farms east of Manhattan. Sens. Pat Roberts and Jerry Moran joined Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue to discuss the developing farm bill, trade and other current issues in agriculture.

KSA officers Lucas Heinen, Everest; Dwight Meyer, Hiawatha; and Teresa Brandenburg, Osborne, attended with Director of Field Services Dennis Hupe. Afterward, they went to the Kansas Department of Agriculture office in Manhattan for an event with Perdue and Gov. Jeff Colyer, M.D.

A recording of the Roundup is available at <http://j.mp/KsAgRoundup> on the web. ↗



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▲ Kansas Soybean Association President Lucas Heinen, Everest, appears before the Kansas House taxation committee. He expressed the Association's opposition to HB 2740, which would have increased the statewide property-tax levy for schools, March 6. It eventually died in committee May 4. [\(KSA PHOTO\)](#)

▼ Heinen (third from right) discusses international trade with the Flint Hills Farm & Ranch Club. Kansas' major grain commodities and the Kansas Livestock Association were represented on the panel. Kansas Farm Bureau CEO Terry Holdren moderated the May 22 event at KFB headquarters in Manhattan. [\(KSA PHOTO\)](#)



Young Leader applications available

Since 1984, the Young Leader program has identified and developed farmer-leaders who continue to shape the future of agriculture. It provides industry-leading training that develops participants' leadership potential while fostering collaboration among farmers throughout the United States and Canada.

The Kansas Soybean Association (KSA), American Soybean Association (ASA) and Corteva Agriscience currently are seeking applicants for the 2018–2019 class.

Young Leaders benefit from a challenging, educational two-part training. Phase 1 takes place in Johnston, Iowa, Nov. 27–30. Phase 2 is Feb. 26–March 2, 2019, in Orlando, Florida, in conjunction with the Commodity Classic convention and trade show.

"This program develops us to be spokespeople for the industry so others can understand our way of life," said Jared Nash, Parsons, who completed the program this year with his wife, Kimy. "We also met other people we can call to

get more information about what's going on in their states or regions."

Kim Kohls, Moundridge, and her husband, Kevin, also were members of the latest class.

"We learned how to enhance our abilities to convey messages and to interact with people during the program," she said. "The leadership training and industry involvement that results will help ensure the U.S. ag economy is strong for future generations."

KSA encourages applications from individual farmers and farm couples who want to learn about leadership, communication and ag information and develop a strong peer network. It will work with ASA and Corteva to decide who will represent Kansas in the program then have a seat on the KSA Board of Directors for the next three years.

The application deadline for Kansans is *Sept. 14*. More program information and the application are available via <http://KansasSoybeans.org/young-leaders> on the web. 

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The voice and advocate for soybean-farmer-members

1000 SW Red Oaks Place
Topeka, Kansas 66615-1207

Calendar of industry events

- June 25–27 National Biodiesel Board meeting, Washington, DC
- July 8–13 AGP Latin America project inspection, Sonora & Sinaloa, Mexico
- July 9–12 American Soybean Association Board of Directors meeting, Washington, DC
- July 11 Arkansas River Navigation System partners meeting, Manhattan
- July 12–13 World Initiative for Soy in Human Health meeting & training, Washington, DC
- July 16–20 United Soybean Board meeting, Omaha, NE
- July 19–21 Kansas Soybean leaders' agribusiness tour, Wichita area
- July 20–22 Four State Farm Show, Pittsburgh
- July 21 Kansas Soybean Association Board of Directors meeting, Wichita
- July 23–25 CommonGround national conference, Chicago, IL
- July 24 Soy Transportation Coalition board of directors meeting, Arlington, VA
- July 24–25 Soy Aquaculture Alliance board of directors meeting, Auburn, AL
- July 25–26 Ag Transportation Summit, Arlington, VA
- Aug. 5–11 USA Poultry & Egg Export Council processing program, Manhattan
- Aug. 7–9 North Central Soybean Research Program board of directors meeting, Fargo, ND
- Aug. 10–11 Kansas Soybean Emerging Leaders Academy (Class 5, Phase 1), Topeka
- Aug. 13 Kansas Soybean Commission meeting, Topeka
- Aug. 15 Agribusiness Symposium, Manhattan
- Aug. 23 Governor's Summit on Agricultural Growth, Manhattan
- Aug. 28–30 U.S. Global Trade Exchange, Kansas City, MO



See more at <http://KansasSoybeans.org/events>



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