

# STRAIGHT ROWS

Volume 25, Issue 3 | Spring 2021

## Commodity Classic delivers sessions to 4,000+ farms

Many Kansas farmers wished to travel hundreds of miles to San Antonio in early March to attend Commodity Classic. Instead, Commodity Classic traveled hundreds of miles to reach farmers in their homes and on their farms.

The 25th anniversary of the event was marked by a special edition, “delivered right to your farm” format, where educational, roundtable and “what’s new” sessions streamed through an event app. Over 6,000 individuals representing 4,000 farms in 24 countries participated.

Brett Neibling, KSA second vice president from Highland, was one of those individuals. He admits that he was hesitant about how the online format would work prior to the event, but ultimately, he was impressed with how effectively it turned out.

He says sessions that pushed the envelope, such as Rob Sharkey’s “Challenging Agriculture’s Thinking,” resonated with him most.

“It was entertaining and light-hearted,” he says. “It was a great presentation about conducting yourself on social media, and Rob talked about fresh topics.”

Dwight Meyer, chairman of the board, also logged on to listen in. He enjoyed the weed control session presented by the Hefty Brothers who host Ag Ph.D. on

television. Being able to hear and learn from educational sessions was a refreshing experience for Meyer.



He says, “In the past, we weren’t able to go to many sessions because of countless other meetings. We got to attend more educational sessions this year, which was beneficial.”

Having them available on demand through April is even better and Meyer says he is eager to watch more.

The content truly was delivered right to the farm. Both Neibling and Meyer listened from home and while hauling livestock and

grain, demonstrating the convenience of this year’s format.

Digital delivery did present some challenges, though, namely rural broadband connectivity and speed. Gail Kueser, Garnett farmer and board secretary, missed some sessions due to internet issues. Matthew Atkinson, District 4 representative from Columbus, also experienced connectivity issues. Fortunately, both plan to catch missed sessions on demand.

Of sessions they could play, Kueser commented that the Enlist session sponsored by Corteva prepared him to use the product. Atkinson particularly enjoyed market talk sessions, saying that’s an area of expertise he continually develops.

The American Soybean Association, a core sponsor of Classic, hosted a session titled “Mending the Stress Fence” on the last day. The United Soybean Board also had a presence with three sessions throughout the event, including one about positioning U.S. soy in a changing marketplace.

USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack provided a highly regarded closing keynote, one Neibling says provided insightful commentary on agriculture and carbon policy.

It was a good event for the circumstances, though Kueser puts it best, “It is hard to beat being there in person.”





## Using chaos to create great change

Hello! I hope that this finds you all well and in the midst of a safe and productive spring! My husband, Luke, and I farm with his family near Russell. We have three little boys: Jacob, 13, Isaac, 8, and David, 5.

In addition to the farm, I also work as the National Chapter Operations Manager for Sigma Alpha Professional Agriculture Sorority.

When I joined the KSA Board in 2010, I never dreamed I would get the privilege of leading an organization that does so much for not only its members, but also for farmers and agriculture in general. As I reflect on what I hope to contribute during my time as President, it's hard to not get bogged down by the chaos of the past year. While it feels as if everything has been extra challenging, it also brings to mind a quote from Deepak Chopra that says, "All great changes are preceded by chaos."

Despite all the difficulties of the last year, Kansas Soybean never stopped doing the work of serving our growers. Although we did not get to meet in person at Expo, we still held an Annual Meeting where members got to vote on policy and elect directors.

Commodity Classic looked different this year, and even though we weren't together in San Antonio, KSA contributed to meaningful changes in ASA's policy. We adjusted and adapted to ensure that the voice of Kansas soy growers was heard around the nation.

In Topeka, where access to the Capitol has been limited, we are still finding ways to reach out to your legis-

lators to share the story of Kansas soy and protect the interests of those that grow it.

The chaos of the past year also included a search for a new CEO to lead Kansas Soybean. Kenlon Johannes has been a trusted colleague to so many in the industry, and a visionary and steadfast leader. I am thankful to call him both a mentor and friend, and we wish him the absolute best in his retirement.

This specific change has brought us a wonderful asset in our new CEO & Administrator, Kaleb Little. Kaleb joined the staff back in January and brings such a breadth of knowledge and experience. He is passionate about adding value for soy growers, and I have been extremely impressed with his ability to listen and learn. We are glad to have him as part of the team and look forward to the things we will all accomplish together.

As we move forward, please reach out if you have any questions or concerns! I'm always happy to speak with our famer-members and can be reached at [lukeand-teresa@gmail.com](mailto:lukeand-teresa@gmail.com) or 785-324-1570.

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### 2021 Board of Directors

|                                    |                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| District 1 .....                   | Brett Neibling, Highland        |
| District 2 .....                   | Brice Bunch, Topeka             |
| District 3 .....                   | Gail Kueser, Garnett            |
| District 4 .....                   | Matthew Atkinson, Columbus      |
| District 5 .....                   | Mike Musselman, Clifton         |
| District 6 .....                   | Kim Kohls, Moundridge           |
| District 7 .....                   | Teresa Brandenburg, Osborne     |
| At-large .....                     | Jared Nash, Parsons             |
| Atchison County .....              | Brandon Geiger, Highland        |
| Brown County .....                 | Scott Gigstad, Everest          |
| Cherokee County .....              | Greg Strube, Horton             |
| Doniphan County .....              | Roger Draeger, Galena           |
| K-State Research & Extension ..... | Josh Falk, Robinson             |
| K-State Agronomy .....             | Sarah Lancaster, Manhattan      |
| Kansas Soybean Processors .....    | Michel Ransom, Ph.D., Manhattan |
| Kansas Soybean Commission .....    | Grace Alvarez, Emporia          |
| American Soybean Association ..... | Bob Haselwood, Berryton         |
| .....                              | Charles Atkinson, Great Bend    |
| .....                              | Andy Winsor, Grantville         |
| Young Leader .....                 | Jeremy Olson, Everest           |
| .....                              | Kendall Heiniger, Fairview      |

### 2021 Executive Committee

|                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| President .....          | Teresa Brandenburg     |
| 1st Vice President ..... | Scott Gigstad          |
| 2nd Vice President ..... | Brett Neibling         |
| Secretary .....          | Gail Kueser            |
| Treasurer .....          | Brice Bunch            |
| Chairman .....           | Dwight Meyer, Hiawatha |

### Staff

|   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Chief Executive Officer .....           | Kenlon Johannes (retiring April 30) |
| Chief Executive Officer .....           | Kaleb Little                        |
| Director of Field Services .....        | Dennis Hupe                         |
| Director of Communications .....        | Amanda Manville                     |
| Director of Operations .....            | Adam O'Trimble                      |
| Director of Programs and Outreach ..... | Jancey Hall                         |
| Accounting Assistant .....              | Dawn Bradley                        |
| Administrative Assistant .....          | Meghan Bechard                      |



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## KSA promotes future success of Kansas soy farmers

I first became involved with the Kansas Soybean Association in 2015 in the Emerging Leaders Academy Class 2. After ELA, I was encouraged by a few board members to apply for the Young Leader program. Being the Young Leader in 2017 allowed me to join the KSA board of directors that same year. Prior to these leadership programs, I was curious what purpose KSA served for Kansas soybean farmers. I felt I could contribute to KSA and also build relationships with farmers across the state and develop skills I could bring home to the farm.

Now more than ever, I feel it is important that farmers are educated and make their voices heard regarding all the challenges they face. KSA, being the voice of Kansas soybean farmers, plays an important role to promote soybean production and future success for Kansas soybean farmers.

I have been involved in agriculture my entire life. I grew up on a row crop soybean and corn

operation working alongside my father and grandfather as a



seventh-generation farmer and participated in 4-H and FFA. I graduated from Kansas State University in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in agribusiness and a minor in agronomy. I currently work for Heinen Brothers Ag as regional agronomy manager for northeast Kansas and

enjoy working with growers to help them maximize profit and yield on their farming operations. I am also part owner in Honest Acre Crop Performance, which serves Midwest farmers by providing new-to-the-market, front-line products and intelligence to meet crop needs.

I farm with my father, brother and two sons. I am a licensed Certified Crop Advisor, a member of the American Society of Agronomy and Kansas Farm Bureau and I belong to the St. Mary's Catholic Church. My wife, Blair, is a Licensed Master Social Worker working for Aetna Better Health of Kansas. We have three children: Bennett, 5; Brittie Mae, 2; and Braven, 7 months. It is important to my wife and me that our children learn the value of hard work and the lessons taught by growing up on the farm.

I encourage any Kansas soybean farmer to reach out to me or any other KSA board member if they have any questions.

## Committee work supports board goals, productivity



Matthew Atkinson (standing), co-chair of the Expo committee, leads the committee meeting March 12 as the 2022 Expo schedule and speakers are discussed.

Much of the work done by the Kansas Soybean Association on behalf of the state's soybean farmers happens through committees. Each committee handles an essential piece of the KSA puzzle that together creates a voice for Kansas' 16,000 soybean growers.

"Committee work throughout the year contributes tremendously to our board's ability to serve the needs of fellow soybean farmers," says Matthew

Atkinson, District 4 representative and co-chairman of the Expo committee. "Each of us is able to bring our talents to our committee assignment."

Committees are appointed on an annual basis with each board member serving on two committees.

*Story continues on page six.*






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## Committees, cont.

### Policy Committee

Objective: Monitor and act on proposed bills in the legislature and compose resolutions.

2021 members: Andy Winsor, chairman; Charles Atkinson, Brett Neibling, Scott Gigstad, Sarah Lancaster and Jared Nash

### Membership/Corporate Relations

Objective: Improve membership and corporate sponsorship; initiate corporate tour.

2021 members: Josh Falk, chairman; Roger Draeger, Kim Kohls, Jeremy Olson and Grace Alvarez

### Finance/Strategic Planning

Objective: Complete annual audit, manage board finances and lead strategic planning.

Members: Brice Bunck, chairman; Michel Ransom, Gail Kueser, Greg Strube and Mike Musselman

### Board Management

Objective: Review and improve operation of the board.

2021 members: Dwight Meyer, chairman, Bob Haselwood, Matthew Atkinson, Brandon Geiger and Kendall Heiniger

### Commission Projects

Objective: Maintain knowledge of Commission-funded projects.

2021 members: Roger Draeger, chairman; Bob Haselwood, Brice Bunck, Jared Nash, Jeremy Olson, Kendall Heiniger and Dwight Meyer

### Expo

Objective: Put together Kansas Soybean Expo plans, including the speakers and schedule.

2021 members: Brett Neibling, co-chairman; Matthew Atkinson, co-chairman; Charles Atkinson, Mickey Ransom, Andy Winsor, Scott Gigstad and Mike Musselman

### Yield Contest

Objective: Amend contest guidelines and review and rank submissions.

2021 members: Greg Strube, chairman; Sarah Lancaster, Josh Falk, Gail Kueser, Brandon Geiger, Kim Kohls and Grace Alvarez



# KSA board dives right into first quarter's business

The first quarter of the year is a significant time for the Kansas Soybean Association board of directors. Even with no Expo to kick-start the calendar year, 2021 hasn't lacked in terms of KSA happenings.

"Normally we would have a whirlwind few days around Expo," says Teresa Brandenburg, KSA president. "We get a lot of work done and follow that with strategic planning, policy events and other events early in the year. This year, that work took place in alternate ways."

The whole board gathered Jan. 5 in place of Expo, including for the annual membership meeting (convened virtually) and the board reorganization meeting.

Most notably, a new team of officers was elected. Brandenburg, Osborne, took over as president; Scott Gigstad, Everest, as first vice president; Brett Neibling, Highland, as second vice president; Gail Kueser, Garnett, as secretary; and Brice Bunc, Topeka, as treasurer. Dwight Meyer became chairman of the board, which is an ex officio position that provides guidance to the president and board.

"Our officer team is prepared to navigate the remainder of the pandemic," Brandenburg says. "I am eager to work with my fellow officers and board to continue bringing value to KSA members."

The annual meeting, also Jan. 5, determined board position elections and outlined the 2021 policy resolutions set by the KSA policy committee in a Jan. 4 meeting.

Matthew Atkinson, Columbus,

retained his District 4 position and Brandon Geiger, Highland, retained his At-Large 3 position. Four counties – Atchison, Brown, Cherokee and Doniphan – will continue representation on the board based on maintaining a 25-member count.

KSA's Yield and Value Contests happened in a new way on Jan. 6. Participants were invited to hop on a Zoom that was broadcast to the Kansas Soybean Facebook page. As results were announced, participants were "spotlighted" using the app's technology.

"We still managed to have a whirlwind of events in early January, even online," Brandenburg noted. "Some of the successful strategies may be considered in the future."

Other highlights from January include:

- Kendall Heiniger, Fairview, officially joined the board in the Young Leader capacity.
- Heiniger and her husband, Austin, became the board's candidates for the U.S. Farmers and Ranchers in Action.
- Lucas Heinen, Everest, announced the creation of a second ASA representative position for Kansas and invited the board to suggest candidates.

Two new faces stepped into roles on the board at the March 12 meeting. Mike Musselman, Clifton, was appointed to the vacant District 5 position and Grace Alvarez, with Bunge in Emporia, took over the Kansas Soybean Processors liaison role.

Additional March meeting highlights include:

- The membership committee scheduled the 2021 corporate tour for July 15-17.

- The board management committee proposed by-law amendments related to the number of Kansas-ASA representatives. Those revisions are to be presented for a vote at a future meeting.
- Dr. Mickey Ransom, Kansas State University agronomy representative, introduced Dr. Rajiv Khosla, new K-State agronomy department head, who officially joins the board April 1 in Ransom's place.

"Overall, many exciting things have happened for KSA despite the challenges we have encountered," Brandenburg concludes. "We hope to continue that."

## 2021-2022 Executive Team



Teresa Brandenburg  
President



Scott Gigstad  
First VP



Brett Neibling  
Second VP



Gail Kueser  
Secretary



Brice Bunc  
Treasurer



Dwight Meyer  
Chairman

# American Soybean Association sets 2021 resolutions

"Schoolhouse Rock" taught us how a bill becomes a law, but how do the American Soybean Association resolutions come to be? It's an annual, monthslong process of refinement that this year concluded February 25.

The resolutions provide direction on different policy issues that ASA may support or oppose. Conducting a multistage process from the states upward to finalize the language on the resolutions brings extra value to each soybean farmer's voice and opinion.

Charles Atkinson, ASA director from Great Bend, notes the back-and-forth process allows many chances for growers to see what is being proposed.

"States get to provide input and also see what other states are doing," he says.

First in the process, individual states review the existing document, discuss the timeliness of

A master document makes its way to state executives and policy committees where further revisions are deliberated during regional caucus events.



The KSA policy committee convened Feb. 19 to conduct a state caucus virtually with Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas association representatives.

This year, environmental stewardship was a major consider-

team, says. "We are willing to work with the new administration to make sure our priorities align and bring the best benefits to producers. Our goal is to

emphasize that soybeans are sustainable and are key to environmental solutions like biodiesel."

Much deliberation centered on biodiesel and carbon incentives. Investing in rural infrastructure and creating a strong farm safety net were also major considerations.

"I was really proud of the work that we did," Teresa Brandenburg, KSA president, says. "A lot of commentary and changes we submitted during the state caucus ended up being approved in the final resolutions."

Three subcommittees appointed by the ASA president evaluate amendments in an assigned section of the document. After consolidating, amending or removing proposals, the second master document is presented to the voting delegates for final approval.

Kansas' voting delegates were Teresa Brandenburg, Osborne; Andy Winsor, Grantville; Gail Kueser, Garnett; Brice Bunck, Topeka; and Atkinson.



previous resolutions and consider emerging priorities to include. Suggestions and relevant justification for proposed additions are submitted to ASA. The five core advocacy teams composed of ASA directors provide input at this stage, as well.

ation in updating the resolutions since sustainability and conservation will take center stage in policy discussions.

"Sustainability is a major key we are focusing in on," Atkinson, co-chairman of the Conservation and Precision Ag advocacy



"We really missed the opportunity of coming together and working on the final version," Atkinson says. "With this year's process spread out over weeks, we could get all the staff involved and provide time for everybody to dive into the resolutions."

Because of the extra time involved, Atkinson says he could see some virtual gatherings in the future, but getting back to live state caucuses and voting will be effective.

More on the 2021 American Soybean Association resolutions can be found at [soygrowers.com/key-issues-initiatives/policy-resolutions/](https://soygrowers.com/key-issues-initiatives/policy-resolutions/).

In conjunction with the Feb. 19 caucus, the Kansas Soybean Association hosted a "SoyPAC and Chill" event to support the efforts of the Soy Political Action Committee. All in attendance at Kansas' SoyPAC event tuned into the online auction of various items donated by individuals and organizations. Proceeds from the auction and donations totaled \$211,745. The PAC supports legislators who champion soybean farmer priorities.

Atkinson, like many farmers, looks forward to uniting with other states and producers at the 2022 Commodity Classic where these events typically take place.

At left, top photo: Charles Atkinson, ASA director from Great Bend, reads through proposed resolutions during the Feb. 25 voting delegates session.

At left, bottom photo: Teresa Brandenburg, KSA president from Osborne, leads the Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas caucus where ASA resolutions were reviewed and amended. Jared Nash, Parsons, reviews the proposal document.

## Eye on Kansas Legislature

Legislation greatly impacts a farm's ability to operate. Sometimes it is welcome change that gives freedom or incentive to farmers; sometimes it is a regulation that burdens operations. With a full slate of tasks on the farm day in and day out, it is important to have a presence at the statehouse when regular trips are not a feasible option for individual farmers. It is even more important this year with restricted access to the Capitol.

"Our board members are not able to be in the Capitol talking to senators and representatives ourselves," Andy Winsor, chair of the KSA policy committee, says. "However, we do have staff in there every day."

Gary Reser, Topeka, serves as KSA's eye on legislative activities that matter to farmers. He monitors progress on behalf of KSA board and staff. He shares these notable bills as of March 17, 2021:

### SB 13

Establishes public hearing requirements before a governing body can exceed its revenue neutral rate for property tax purposes and discontinues the city and county tax lid; prohibits its valuation increase of real property solely as the result of normal repair, replacement or maintenance of existing structure. Passed House March 4 and passed Senate on March 11.

### SB 23 / HB 2197

Provides for abatement of property tax for ag improvements to farm buildings or structures for certain buildings or improvements destroyed or substantially destroyed by natural disaster.

KSA supports the bills, stating they "would provide reasonable

and appropriate financial relief for victims of a natural disaster as declared by the governor."

SB 23 passed Senate on March 3 and is currently in the House Committee on Taxation.

### SB 38 / HB 2103

Establishes the Kansas pesticide waste disposal program and permits up to \$50,000 to be transferred annually from the Kansas agricultural remediation fund to a new Kansas pesticide waste disposal fund.

KSA provided written testimony, citing "This bill will provide much needed financial resources to develop systems to ensure that proper disposal methods are met."

SB 38 is set to be heard in the House committee March 22. HB 2103 was approved by the House Feb. 11.

### SB 39

Revises animal health license, permit and registration renewal deadlines and allows the animal health commissioner to recover the actual cost of official calfhood vaccination tags. SB 39 passed in both houses.

### HB 2204

Prohibiting the use of identifiable meat terms on labels of meat substitutes without either a disclaimer that the product does not contain meat or inclusion of the word "imitation" before the name of the meat being imitated.

KSA showed support for the bill, citing, "current labels of meat analogs confuse consumers and do not appropriately convey the content of its ingredients."

Referred to House Committee on Agriculture in February, awaits action.

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# ASA/WISHH, KSU partner on Cambodian field day

Story originally published by the American Soybean Association

ASA/WISHH, Kansas State University (KSU) and other partners recently convened a unique field day that resulted in Cambodian fish farmers and other aquaculture industry representatives going home with new ideas for fish feed and feeding practices, as well as financing options.

KSU and Cambodia's Center of Excellence on Sustainable Agricultural Intensification and Nutrition (CE SAIN) hosted the Jan. 12 field day that also played a key role in connecting fish farmers to buyers and others in Cambodia's aquaculture supply chain.

Commercialization of Aquaculture for Sustainability Trade (CAST) - Cambodia (CAST) is ASA/WISHH's U.S. Department of Agriculture-funded Food for Progress project that benefits from KSU's expertise and KSU's work with CE SAIN, at the Royal University of Agriculture (RUA). KSU also leads a U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Feed the Future Innovation Lab on Collaborative Research on Sustainable Intensification (SIIL).

"The partnership between ASA/WISHH and Kansas State University's SIIL will work to increase the productivity of aquaculture farms in six provinces around the country, by providing training for the improved quality and accessibility of inputs and better market linkages and promoting policies that will enable an environment that better supports aquaculture farmers," said Vara Prasad, University Distinguished Professor and Director of SIIL.

"This is also a great opportunity to continue to build capacity within RUA and strengthen our

partnership and collaborations with Kansas State University and other U.S. institutions," said CE SAIN's Director Lyda Hok.

KSU collaborates with Cambodian researchers, policymakers, donors and aquaculture industry representatives who participate in CE SAIN's initiatives. CE SAIN and CAST's technical team conducted the farmer field day at the Serey Sophorn High School, which is home to CE SAIN's Agriculture Technology Park in Kampong Thom province. With



USAID support, KSU established the Agriculture Technology Park inside Serey Sophorn High School, which creates a natural training site for current and future fish farmers.

The 35 field day attendees ranged from fish producers and feed suppliers to fish buyers and distributors to students at the high school. Importantly, the event introduced Chamroeun Microfinance to participants. CAST partner World Vision and Chamroeun Microfinance have launched the first financial services program specifically designed for Cambodian

aquaculture. The main objective of the partnership between World Vision/CAST and Chamroeun Microfinance is to make convenient financial services available to CAST project beneficiaries. They offer new opportunities for fish farmers, processors, wholesalers, retailers, and other aquaculture enterprises to grow the Kingdom of Cambodia's aquaculture sector, which is important to the economy, as well as nutrition and health.

In addition to receiving training on feed and feeding, participants heard and saw how pelleted feeds make fish grow faster. Attendees toured CE SAIN's Agriculture Technology Park and learned to take samples of fish. Fish sampling is important for the farmers to monitor how many fish are in their ponds so they can manage them profitably. They also participated in discussions about good business and management practices. Fish farmers spoke with buyers about the value of locally raised fish, which allowed for a discussion about the quality that is needed for the market.

Another attendee was a woman who owns a fish-buying enterprise that already purchases from the CE SAIN ponds. She regularly participates in CAST activities and has also reinforced the importance of local fish farmers supplying quality fish.

The high school students not only learned about aquaculture for themselves, but also gained important knowledge for their families' farms. One student reported that she was taking the information home to her mother who is a fish farmer.





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## Winsor joins ASA directors

Kansas earned a second seat at the national policy table that was filled by Andy Winsor's appointment to the ASA board of directors.

Winsor, a Grantville farmer and Kansas Soybean Association director, says that the opening immediately interested him.

"I really like the policy process," Winsor says. "I think it is important that Kansas has another seat at the table with the political climate we have now."

Winsor currently chairs the KSA policy committee, which allows him to be deeply involved in legislative action at the state level. National policy is a little different though, he says.

"The stakes are higher. With state policy, we are an agricultural state where much of what we do is understood. Nationally, there are more urban politicians to reach."

He believes as more legislators become removed from the farm, amplifying farmer voices to promote agriculture is key. Winsor, like many who farm today, grew up on the farm. Ultimately, that led him to keep farming. He is a third-generation farmer who grows soybeans, corn, wheat and cover crops with his wife, LaVell.

Winsor's first engagement as an ASA director was the March 17 meeting. He was appointed

to the ASA Farm Policy Advocacy Team, which works on things like the Farm Bill. Though he has not met with this team yet, Winsor looks forward to diving into the national policymaking process.

Kansas has long had great influence in national agricultural policies with consistent representation on the Senate Agriculture Committee, and that legacy continues with an added ASA director.

The Kansas soybean Commission invested in various ASA programs, including Soybean Leadership College and Soy Stats, to cross the threshold of additional representation.

The structure changed within the last decade to where state eligibility for added representation was no longer based solely on membership.

This is the first time Kansas has been eligible to add a second director since the structure relied so heavily on membership previously. Winsor notes that with increased acreage of soybeans in the central and western regions of the state, he hopes that the state's membership continues to grow.

"Having a second director gives Kansas a stronger and more credible voice," Winsor concludes. "I am really excited to represent my fellow soybean growers on policy issues that impact our farms."



## EPA decision shows biofuel support

Should oil refineries be eligible for retroactive exemptions on minimum biofuel volume requirements? That is the question that powered a yearlong debate and eventually prompted a final action from the Environmental Protection Agency in February.

On February 22, 2021, EPA announced its support of the Jan. 2020 10th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals interpretation of the Renewable Fuel Standard small-refinery exemption provisions. Under that 10th Circuit decision, the court decided SREs cannot be granted if they are not already in place for a given facility. The agency stated that, "an exemption must exist for EPA to be able to 'extend' it."

EPA's commitment to upholding the RFS sets the tone for future compliance and demonstrates the agency's support for renewable fuels.

The Fall 2020 Straight Rows reported the welcome news that then-administrator Andrew Wheeler had denied 54 out of 68 retroactive waivers, but there was still much to be determined. Even as recent as Jan. 2021, uncertainty about the exemptions remained as the agency proposed pushing back compliance deadlines in the midst of the court case.

The American Soybean Association closely watched the unfolding situation and released a statement, saying "ASA appreciates EPA's willingness to uphold the RFS" and that they felt "excessive use of small refinery waivers undercut the purpose of the RFS."



## Out-of-the-Past Photo - June 2004 Straight Rows

Kansas Soybean Association directors and staff visited Washington, D.C. in March 2004 to discuss key issues.

Then-KSA President John Heise, Scranton; Second Vice President Lance Rezac, Onaga; American Soybean Association Director Bill Wiley, Lyndon; and CEO Kenlon Johannes made the trip.

Key issues at the time included biodiesel tax credits, securing funding for USDA research on soybean rust and legume genomics, advocating for new locks on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers and voicing opposition of biotech ingredient labeling regulations.

In addition to meeting with then-Rep. Jerry Moran, as pictured, the group also met with

Sen. Pat Roberts, Rep. Jim Ryun and Rep. Dennis Moore.

Rezac now serves on the Kansas Soybean Commission, Johannes

retires from his Kansas Soybean leadership April 30 and Heise and Wiley have retired from the board.



L to R: Lance Rezac, Kenlon Johannes, John Heise (sitting), Jerry Moran and Bill Wiley.

## GROWING KANSAS SOYBEAN-CROP VALUE FROM \$240 MILLION TO **\$1.5 Billion**

The Kansas Soybean Commission looks beyond the elevator to identify issues that affect Kansas soybean farmers' profitability. Simply put, a **#Croppportunity** is your checkoff dollars at work — new revenue streams created, existing markets expanded or revived in new, exciting ways that open up demand and drive sales.



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- **\$1.6 billion** of economic impact for Kansas in 2019<sup>2</sup>
- **\$707 million** in Kansas exports in 2018<sup>2</sup>
- From **1.9 million** acres and **\$5.55** per bushel to **4.4 million** acres and **\$8.40** per bushel (1991 to 2019)<sup>1</sup>
- **10.9 million** bushels of soybeans used by Kansas animal agriculture in 2019<sup>3</sup>
- **63¢** more per bushel due to biodiesel<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service • <sup>2</sup> USDA Economic Research Service • <sup>3</sup> United Soybean Board • <sup>4</sup> National Biodiesel Board

# STRAIGHT ROWS

Volume 25, Issue 3 | Spring 2021

The voice and advocate for soybean-farmer-members

1000 SW Red Oaks Place  
Topeka, Kansas 66615-1207

## Calendar of Industry Events

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| April 7-9  | Great Bend Farm Show, Great Bend                |
| April 28   | ASA-State CEO Call, Virtual                     |
| April 30   | Kenlon Johannes' last day with Kansas Soybean   |
| May 5-6    | Animal Agriculture Alliance Conference, Virtual |
| May 17     | Kansas Soybean 2021 Summer Interns' first day   |
| May 26     | ASA-State CEO Call, Virtual                     |
| May 26-28  | USMEF Spring Conference, Minneapolis, MN        |
| May 21-23  | Four State Farm Show, Pittsburg                 |
| May 31     | Memorial Day; Kansas Soybean Offices Closed     |
| June 14-16 | NBB Meeting, Washington, D.C.                   |
| June 22-24 | USAPEEC Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN           |
| June 30    | ASA-State CEO Call, Virtual                     |

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