

STRAIGHT ROWS

KANSAS SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION

Digital Edition

STATE LEGISLATIVE SPECIAL | May 2024



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Policy Perspective

Another crop season is upon us. While we are in the fields growing our crop, it is necessary for someone to be in the Statehouse and Washington, D.C., on our behalf. After receiving a district seat on the Kansas Soybean Association board, I joined the policy committee to be involved in how the organization advocates for all Kansas soybean farmers at the state and national level.

KSA focuses on cultivating relationships with our policy makers to build trust and establish our position as a go-to resource. We do this by making multiple trips to the Statehouse and nation's Capitol to elevate KSA's policy priorities and offer farmer perspectives on how proposed policies affect our freedom to operate.

Recently, KSA celebrated some big wins. First, we worked with ASA to get the EPA's ruling on Enlist reversed in select southeast Kansas counties. This ensured that Kansas farmers could keep using the herbicide and continue to make their own choices for what is best on their operation. We also aided in restoring chlorpyrifos use and getting quick answers about the existing stock order for dicamba.

KSA is your advocate; thank you for your support as we work for you.

\$16.5 million rail expansion aids ag supply chain

Earlier this year, Gov. Laura Kelly announced \$16.5 million has been allotted for 17 short-line rail expansion and rehabilitation projects in the state. Each recipient must match funding by 30%, making the total more than \$23.5 million for upgrades.

"Sound infrastructure is vital to the success of farmers," Brett Neibling, Highland farmer, says. "Not only do we need to move our soybeans from home to the elevator, but access to railways will make the move from the elevator to the processor or consumer easier."

These funds support enhancing safety, reducing traffic, expanding carload capabilities and improving operations. Among the recipients is the South Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad in Elk and Cowley counties, which connects Bartlett facilities in Great Bend and Cherryvale. This grant also benefits the railway utilized by Scouler's oilseed processing plant in Goodland.

Improvements can positively impact soybean growers as it will be safer and easier to haul soybeans across the state. Neibling says with rail cars and good infrastructure, the shipping costs do not get passed onto the farmer, making the process more efficient.

“These needed rail infrastructure improvements will lift up rural Kansas and, in doing so, will maximize the economic potential of the entire state,” Governor Laura Kelly said in the Office of the Governor’s news release. “By strengthening agriculture supply chains, my administration is helping our farmers and ranchers connect to regional, national, and international markets.”

Reser Report: 2024 Legislative Session

Gary Reser, Kansas Soybean Association policy consultant, lobbies on behalf of Kansas soybean farmers during the state legislative session. Reser’s role keeps KSA engaged with bills and provides insight to the legislators and regulators. He states that two KSA-supported bills were approved and three bills that KSA opposed did not move through the process. The 2024 legislative session adjourned May 1.

The following is a synopsis of bills KSA tracked in the 2024 legislative session:

- SB 446 prohibits ownership interests in Kansas real property by foreign individuals and entities unless approved by the state land council. KSA presented written opponent testimony on the bill in the Senate Federal and Affairs Committee on February 7. SB 446 remains in the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee.
- HB 2526 authorizes the chief engineer to adopt rules and regulations concerning fees and inspections of dams. It was referred to the House Water Committee and hearings were ultimately cancelled in two different House committees. HB 2526 remains in the House Appropriations Committee.
- HB 2766 establishes the Protecting Military Installations and Ranges Act, which prohibits foreign interests from countries of concern from owning certain real estate in proximity to military installations. It was heard on March 4 in the House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee and remains there.
- HB 2477 increases the maximum reimbursement amounts from the agricultural remediation fund. KSA presented written proponent testimony on the bill January 30 and March 5 in the House Agriculture Committee and the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, respectively. HB 2477 passed the Kansas House 110-1 and the Kansas Senate 39-1.
- HB 2648 requires the budget director to determine the compliance and implementation costs of all proposed rules and regulations, and authorizes the director to disapprove of rules and regulations costing over \$1 million over five years. KSA presented written and oral proponent testimony in the House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee on February 13 and the Senate Commerce Committee on March 18. HB 2648 passed the Kansas House 82-39 and the Kansas Senate 27-13.

KSA continues to enhance its position as a positive and prominent voice for Kansas agriculture. Policy work is supported by your membership dollars and not checkoff dollars. These dollars are vital to the success of ensuring farmers have a voice on bills that would impact their day-to-day operations. If you have any questions about policy stances, contact the association at 785-271-1030.

Behind the Scenes: KSA submits comments on CARB

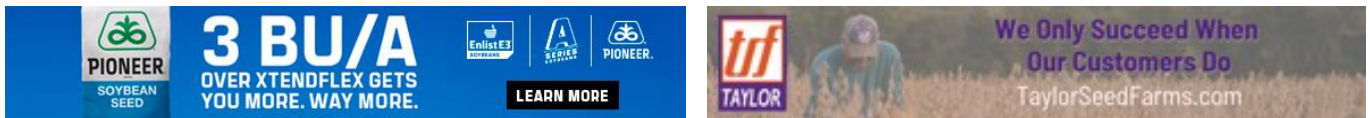
In April, the California Air Resources Board hosted a public workshop to discuss the Low Carbon Fuel Standard. California consumes nearly all renewable diesel produced domestically, serving as a critical market for U.S. soybean oil.

The Kansas Soybean Association had the opportunity to provide comments on farmer's behalf to highlight positive outcomes and address areas for growth and potential concerns. Looking specifically at the proposed sustainability guardrail concept, CARB recommended implementing a stringent certification and audit system that would only apply to crop-based feedstock providers.

Soybean organizations encourage CARB to reassess its sustainability framework, aiming for practicality and financial viability within the biofuels sector. Additionally, KSA hopes CARB will update the carbon intensity model to improve soy’s score, thus securing the future viability of soy-based biodiesel and renewable diesel within the program.

Long-standing Member Benefit:

After more than a decade of partnership with vehicle manufacturers GM, Ford, and Stellantis, the KSA member vehicle discount program has come to an end. The Kansas Soybean Association values the work Clean Fuels Alliance America (formerly National Biodiesel Board) has done to provide this lucrative discount program to soybean members across the country. Purchasing from brands who support biodiesel has long been a way for the soybean industry to show its appreciation and growers are encouraged to continue doing so.



Thank you to all of our **corporate partners** who support KSA's efforts.

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