

Kansas Soybean Association

2025 Kansas Legislative

Top Priority Action List

01/10/2025

- **Maintain the right to farm in Kansas while working to keep a positive environment for livestock, aquaculture, and other agricultural related industries.**
- **Keep the current sales tax structure for farm equipment and other agricultural purchases. Continue support for funding state government through the use of sales and/or income tax without placing more burden on property tax.**
- **Maintain the current use-value appraisal system for taxation of agricultural land.**
- **Support fully funding the Kansas Water Plan and common-sense management of state water use that does not disadvantage agricultural industries.**
- **Work with Kansas Department of Transportation on the Soy Transportation Coalition project to test the structural integrity of Kansas' bridges.**
- **Reinstate funding for the Kansas biodiesel production incentive and work with government and fuel suppliers to promote increased biodiesel usage.**

A complete listing of current adopted policies is available at KansasSoybeans.org

Kansas Soybean Association

2025 Policies and Resolutions

01/10/2025

Mission Statement

The mission of the Kansas Soybean Association is to serve as the voice and advocate for soybean-farmer-members

Kansas Soybean Association (KSA) supports the American Soybean Association (ASA) policies. Any national policy adopted by the KSA will be carried forward to ASA.

A. Farm Support, Domestic Markets, and Transportation

A-1 Preamble

KSA Supports individual freedom and private initiative through a competitive enterprise system. KSA supports achieving a balanced federal budget and reducing the national debt through a comprehensive approach to deficit reduction that includes all entitlement programs and discretionary spending. Reductions in the cost of agriculture-related programs should be proportionate.

A-2 Farm Income Support Programs

KSA supports farm program policy positions of ASA.

A-3 Disaster Aid

The Kansas Soybean Association supports federal disaster assistance for natural disasters.

A-4 Production Data

The Kansas Soybean Association supports providing payments to producers based on historical production data. Data from crop insurers should be an acceptable form of proof.

A-5 Crop Insurance

The Kansas Soybean Association asks that governing agencies take into consideration topsoil thickness and annual rainfall, along with the frost-free days within the state of Kansas. We feel that proven research, in each area, should be used to set parameters for dates and cultivation practices for crop insurance coverage.

A-6 Energy

A-7 Alternative Fuel and Energy

KSA supports existing law which provides agricultural producers the opportunity to create non-profit utilities.

KSA supports a statewide energy plan that promotes the use of renewable energy, and the use of tax credits and other responsible incentives to achieve this plan.

KSA supports a statewide energy plan that provides ample electricity for the growing economic activity of the state, in an affordable, equitable way, through diverse production sources.

Property rights of all landowners in areas developed for renewable energy generation should be protected. Decisions regarding siting guidelines and other potential zoning or restrictions are best made by state government after public input and comment. Regulations should provide area landowners adequate protection of setbacks, decommissioning issues and environmental issues, but should not put Kansas at a disadvantage in developing renewable energy sources.

KSA opposes the imposition of a moratorium on the production of renewable energy in Kansas.

A-8 Domestic Markets

The Kansas Soybean Association supports classifying all agriculture workers as essential in maintaining the domestic food supply, including the food and meat processing and transportation sectors.

KSA supports using agricultural products to produce non-food products to provide additional marketing opportunities and to provide for the potential for increased prices.

KSA supports additional research and development to find non-traditional farm products that have the potential to become viable enterprises for agricultural producers. KSA supports the State Agriculture Marketing Program and urge the State of Kansas, through the Division of Agriculture Products Development, Department of Commerce, to allocate more resources to support the development of value-added products. The state of Kansas should authorize incentives encouraging farmers and ranchers to invest in producer-owned cooperatives and value-added businesses.

A-9 Animal/Livestock/Aquaculture

The Kansas Soybean Association supports the continuation and expansion of the livestock industry (meat, poultry, and aquaculture) in the U.S. for greater use of U.S. soybean products. ASA will work with these industries to improve the public image on the importance of these foods in a balanced diet.

KSA supports the Animal Health Division of The Kansas Department of Agriculture, which is best suited to protect and preserve the animal health and safety of the state's livestock industry.

KSA believes that US food regulatory agencies should prevent the labeling of non-live animal based food products as meat.

We support state and federal funding and efforts to eradicate feral swine in Kansas as part of disease mitigation efforts.

We support research on animal stress and livestock production practices, along with practical ways to implement proven research findings on farms and ranches. Research utilizing animals is necessary to ensure more effective human and veterinary medical practices.

KSA supports aggressive educational programs by the Kansas Soybean Association and other interested organizations, which will present the facts of animal and poultry production to legislative bodies, governmental regulators, the general public and school children. We also encourage programs to inform and assist livestock producers on methods of dealing with animal rights activists who may threaten, harass, or commit acts of vandalism.

We support proper animal husbandry of all animals. We support protections against slanderous media and other materials that may have been acquired from an agricultural production operation unknowingly or without written permission.

We support and encourage implementation of animal disease traceability within the state of Kansas. The disease traceability program should be easy to comply with and affordable.

We support the development of a persistent infection (PI) Quick Test for bovine viral diarrhea (BVD) use in chute side production practices and encourage voluntary testing for PI cattle, especially for cattle prior to sale. We support the Kansas Department of Animal Health import testing requirements for Trichomoniasis and recommend adding Trichomoniasis testing for bulls in intrastate change of ownership or lease, with the exemption of virgin bulls (18 months or younger) and bulls going directly to slaughter.

We support the current voluntary herd testing and certification program for Johne's disease, and encourage continued federal assistance of testing costs.

We support programs necessary to ensure consumer confidence in our livestock industry and its products and encourage provision of adequate resources.

We encourage law enforcement and animal control officers to notify owners of domesticated livestock running at large.

KSA opposes any regulatory or legislative efforts that make changes in traditional animal husbandry practices not based on scientific research or fact.

KSA supports aquaculture and commercial fisheries being treated as agricultural enterprises. State activities affecting aquaculture and commercial fisheries should be under the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

Appropriations for aquaculture and commercial fisheries should be directed toward research, market development and consumer education.

We favor the use of government-produced fingerlings for private uses only when privately produced sources are not available.

A-10 Soy Foods

A-11 GMO Labeling

The Kansas Soybean Association supports voluntary GMO food labeling based on federal rules and regulations. KSA does not support GMO labeling based on state requirements.

A-12 Industrial Uses of Soybeans

Kansas Soybean Association supports the continued investment of checkoff dollars for the purpose of development of non-food products that will provide additional marketing opportunities and the potential for increased prices. Continued investment by United Soybean Board is critical to the long term success of commercial uses of soybeans. KSA supports the use of alternative products in the delivery of asphalt and other agriculturally-based products including deicers.

A-13 Biodiesel Development

KSA supports consumer education, promotion efforts and incentives including retailers' incentives, to expand the production and use of agricultural-based alternative fuels. Greater emphasis should be placed on implementing these programs. The Kansas Soybean Association supports the efforts of 25 × '25 to set as a national goal that 25% of America's energy be produced from renewable sources by the year 2025. KSA supports maintaining both the federal and state renewable fuels provisions that have been established by legislation.

The Kansas Soybean Association supports the further development of soybean-based biodiesel. The Kansas Soybean Association endorses the inclusion of soybean-based biodiesel in the development and implementation of any potential alternative fuels program. The Kansas Soybean Association also supports legislation that treats biodiesel the same as other alternative renewable energy sources with respect to federal and state tax credit.

The Kansas Soybean Association requests the Kansas state legislature, and city officials from Kansas municipalities to adopt a policy that would mandate all government-owned diesel-powered vehicles to run on a low blend (5%) of biodiesel when available and economically feasible. All such vehicles, with the exception of government owned vehicles used for undercover law enforcement, should be so identified with a bumper sticker or other decal to indicate to the public that said vehicle is reducing emissions and is powered in part by Kansas soybeans.

KSA encourages the state to develop and implement an aggressive plan for increasing bio-fuel usage in state vehicles and machinery. KSA recommends a minimum of 20% of the state's fuel purchases be bio-fuels. KSA encourages the legislature to enact such a requirement. If the legislature fails to act, then the Governor shall establish a plan for administrative agencies through Executive Order. KSA supports the development of legislation that provides incentives to school districts to use biodiesel in school buses.

The Kansas Soybean Association believes Kansas distributors of biodiesel should be allowed tax credits by the Kansas state legislature. Such tax credits should be applied for the purchase of infrastructure necessary for distribution of biodiesel at the terminal and retail levels, maintenance of equipment for the storage and distribution of the biodiesel.

KSA supports the continuation of the biodiesel plant development incentive fund. The Kansas Soybean Association supports efforts by the Kansas Legislature to increase the funding levels that provide Kansas the ability to compete with the surrounding states on an equal basis for biodiesel plant development.

The Kansas Soybean Association believes that all sales of biodiesel blends should have as a minimum blend of at least five percent biodiesel that meets ASTM 6751 standards. KSA encourages all distributors and marketers of biodiesel to feature a minimum of at least two percent blended fuel. Any distributor of biodiesel that fails to feature a blended fuel containing at least the minimum of two percent biodiesel derived from soybean oil should not make the claim that the fuel is soybean oil based biodiesel, and therefore should not advertise, promote, or otherwise market the product as being biodiesel, and having the full benefits of biodiesel.

KSA opposes any revision to the definition of alternative fuels that allows the inclusion of renewable diesel for the purposes of receiving any production or tax credit.

A-14 Transportation

KSA supports KDOT adopting new technologies that scientifically evaluates bridge structure.

KSA supports continued inspection, maintenance and replacement of US, State, County and Township roads and bridges for motor vehicles and farm implements to assure continued safe transit and travel.

KSA supports a well-designed, adequately funded transportation system for the State of Kansas. The Kansas Department of Transportation should strengthen the Aviation, Rail and Public Transportation sections of the department.

Kansas Soybean Association will work to oversee that regulations regarding the transportation of agricultural equipment, vehicles and implements of husbandry must be practical. Consideration should be given to the type of use, practice and design of the equipment, vehicle or implement.

Regulations and licensing should recognize the unique characteristics of agricultural transportation, distance to markets, seasonal needs, and the need to maximize efficiencies in transport.

KSA supports flexibility in axle and bridging limits for trucks transporting commodities at harvest from field to the first market or point of storage.

KSA encourages the use of roadside reflective flexible markers to reduce damage to farm equipment.

ATV's and micro-utility trucks used in farming and ranching should be statutorily defined as implements of husbandry.

KSA supports responsible and legal use of un-manned aerial vehicle(s) –i.e. “drones” in crop production including reasonable laws and regulations ensuring public safety and privacy.

KSA supports the extended hours of service and the exemption of the electronic logging device (ELD) when carrying live or perishable agricultural commodities and products beyond the 150-mile agricultural zone.

A-15 Missouri River Water Policy

KSA supports inland water transportation because it represents the most energy-efficient mode for moving agricultural commodities. The Kansas Soybean Association supports alternatives proposed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to the Master Plan for the Management of the Missouri River Basin that keep navigation and inland drainage as top priorities.

A-16 Railroad

Rail car service needs to be provided on a timely basis. Shippers should be notified at least one week in advance of expected car arrival. Arrival time frames should be narrowed from the general 15-day contract period currently being used. We encourage appropriate state agencies and/or legislative bodies to examine "tipping fee" practices.

The abandonment of rail lines is a matter of intense concern to agricultural producers. We support the concept that carriers should not be permitted to easily abandon existing lines. We support necessary legislation that could facilitate the sale of rail lines which otherwise might be abandoned, provided it does not violate the property rights of the underlying landowners. Kansas should also challenge the federal government to remove federal incentives and regulations that encourage railroad abandonment or rail banking at the expense of local transportation needs.

Increased public and private initiatives to assist Short Line Railroads and Class III carriers to obtain rail lines that may otherwise be abandoned should be encouraged. All Short Line Railroads should have the ability to access lines of major rail carriers.

We support the establishment of new commuter rail lines on existing short line tracks in Kansas. Kansas should provide tax incentives and other appropriate assistance to railroad companies that agree to upgrade rail lines and provide long-term service to shippers.

Railroad rights-of-way and the railroad's portion of access roads and crossings should be maintained so long as the railroad continues to retain the rights-of-way, even if rail service is discontinued along the corridor.

We encourage railroads to rail bank only those corridors that has a reasonable probability of being utilized for rail service in the future.

A-17 Telecommunications

We support every home and business in Kansas having access to high-speed communication infrastructure at a reasonable cost. We support a vibrant high-speed broadband network that delivers telemedicine applications, distance learning applications for K-12, higher education and continuing education, and gives libraries the ability to provide interactive content for rural citizens.

Communication service providers should have access to funds (such as, but not limited to, the Universal Service Fund, Rural Electric and USDA Rural Development funds) to maintain affordable service for customers in rural communities.

We support efforts to provide consistent and efficient cellular telephone service across the state. Providers should take steps to ensure coverage during times of severe weather or natural disasters.

A-18 Animal Agriculture and Filming

The Kansas Soybean Association supports giving producers increased protections against false and derogatory statements that would damage or endanger a producer's livelihood, product, and property or diminish livestock production practices. KSA supports allowing producers to secure their facilities and operations at all times.

B. Research, Conservation, and Farmer Focused Policies

B-1 Preamble

KSA works to promote research, conservation priorities and needs of the soybean industry. KSA believes that increased funding is necessary for agricultural research and conservation efforts. KSA supports measures to prohibit sovereign nations or global entities from setting environmental and/or water quality standards more stringent than federal or state regulations.

B-2 Research Funding

The Kansas Legislature should appropriate adequate funding towards agricultural research, [including the modernization of research facilities](#) at Kansas State University.

The Kansas Soybean Association supports the continued enhancement of the International Grains Program and the Grain Science research facility at Kansas State University.

KSA supports state and national funding of incentives to promote the research, development and implementation of the use of polymers that are derived from soybeans.

B-3 Property Rights

We support legislation which will prevent any increased liability for owners and tenants of land or livestock.

Recognizing that many Kansas farmers do not own the land they farm, KSA supports the rights of tenant farmers. We encourage thorough conversation regarding rights and responsibilities of all parties involved.

Eminent domain procedures should be used only for legitimate public purposes. The use of eminent domain for economic development should be restricted. KSA opposes the practice of condemning the property of one landowner and subsequently transferring that property to another private landowner under the auspices of economic development.

Takings, partial takings, or any other governmental control or jurisdiction over private property should not be permitted without just compensation for loss of production, development or sale potential, as provided in the 5th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. If eminent domain is used, compensation for interests in land taken by eminent domain should be at a rate that is greater than the fee simple fair market value. ~~compensation to the landowner should be greater than fair market value of the land and should take into account increasing value of agricultural land.~~

Owners of real estate proposed to be taken in a condemnation proceeding should be allowed to choose one appraiser in the appraisal process. All appraisals should be made public. The legislature should consider and adopt appropriate mechanisms to evaluate and provide equitable payment to owners of property condemned by eminent domain, especially in instances where there is significant increase in value as a result of the development. Petitioners in a condemnation action should be required to complete an impact analysis and feasibility study to estimate potential increases in value of the property to be taken.

A severance allowance should be paid to those who lose income because leased or rented real estate has been taken in an eminent domain or condemnation proceeding. A person whose property is taken by eminent domain or condemnation should have one year following payment to relocate, with the relocation costs being borne by the person or entity "taking" the property.

Producers should be compensated if it is necessary to alter agricultural practices when regulations or legislation take effect which classify species as "threatened," "endangered" or "in need of conservation".

Access to or across private property for watercraft use on streams and rivers, if granted by the landowner/operator, should be limited to fishing boats and canoes. We strongly oppose the addition of any rivers or streams into the category of "navigable" streams.

KSA opposes the imposition of a moratorium on the development of any agricultural crop or livestock production facility or operation in Kansas. Legislative or regulatory efforts should not prevent agricultural producers from voluntarily participating in coordinated, value or supply chain based marketing mechanisms.

KSA opposes giving any person or governmental agency authority for access to private property for inspection or investigation without permission from the property owner or operator.

KSA believes that property rights of all landowners in renewable energy development areas should be protected. Those property rights should be protected by basic site standards (e.g. setbacks from dwellings and roads) and a decommissioning policy.

KSA supports adjustments in real property valuations for agricultural producers, because of their unique condition. The appraisal standards should take into consideration the obsolescence that occurs for farms and livestock and/or commodity specific structures. Such standards should conform to generally accepted appraisal procedures which are adaptable to mass appraisal and consistent with the definition of fair market value. Furthermore, farm program payments, easement payments, and conservation payments, such as CRP, EQIP or CREP should not be considered when determining use value appraisal.

B-4 Precision Agriculture Data Information Ownership

KSA urges that information gathered by GPS should remain the sole property of the person or party that pays for the gathering of the information of said practices. The public differential correction signals should be available to all producers at no cost. We oppose the acquisition of adjacent band width by any company that would compromise the effectiveness of GPS technology for farmers.

KSA opposes the acquisition and utilization of any and all private farmer, farm operator or land owner data and information for purposes that do not directly benefit the original owner of said data and information, or puts the original data owner in a compromised or disadvantaged situation in managing their operations for maximum profitability, productivity and sustainability.

KSA supports agricultural producers' right to require equipment and machinery manufacturers to provide owners and independent repair businesses with fair access to service information, security updates and replacement parts.

B-5 Biotechnology and Nanotechnology

KSA supports:

- The peer review process for validating biotechnology research.
- Increased efforts to educate the public worldwide regarding the safety and benefits of products developed through biotechnology.
- Maintaining U.S. export markets by securing foreign regulatory acceptance of biotech products.
- Adequate and accurate information on acceptable markets, and market and planting restrictions must be provided in writing to producers prior to the time they purchase the original input product. Manufacturers should be primarily responsible for encouraging acceptance of GMO products.

KSA opposes:

- Foreign countries imposing any import restrictions, labeling or segregation requirements on any agricultural product enhanced through biotechnology, once such commodity has been certified by the scientific community as safe and not significantly different from other varieties of that commodity.
- The insertion of genetic seed sterilization technology, "terminator technology," as a means of protecting intellectual property.
- Recovery of technology fees from a producer who planted non-GMO seed, that later exhibit GMO traits.

B-6 Organically Grown Crops

KSA recognizes that there is more than one way to sustainably grow soybeans and is supportive of all GMO, non-GMO, and organically grown soybeans.

We support uniform national standards for organic food production that are rigid and strictly enforced. The cost of residue testing should be borne by the organic farmer. KSA believes that all advertised health and nutritional claims be scientifically based.

It is the desire of KSA that markets for all types of soybeans be maintained and expanded.

ASA supports development of a voluntary certification and/or labeling system domestically and internationally for non-biotechnology-enhanced crops and organically grown crops or products for those customers who desire them.

B-7 Conservation & Natural Resources

B-8 Conservation

The Kansas Soybean Association supports the idea to encourage incentives through the Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP) to assist producer to switch from current energy to the use to biodiesel and ethanol. The Conservation Reserve Program has helped reduce soil erosion, and due to the success of the CRP in reducing soil erosion, the Kansas Soybean Association supports the continuation of this program.

B-9 Environmental

The Kansas Soybean Association supports the idea to encourage producers to utilize the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) to reduce erosion and improve water quality.

The environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) has assisted producers to make effective environmental advances to protect the quality of the environment through the use of incentives; the Kansas Soybean Association supports the continuation of this program.

B-10 Kansas Department of Agriculture

We support KDA/USDA based hay, grain, oilseed and livestock price reporting because of the need to gather information for national reporting purposes. We suggest the modernization of the reporting system by using electronic/automatic reporting of receipts and cooperation with other market reporting sources in order to defray state funds and expand the number of reporting stations for a more accurate assessment.

KSA supports legislation and regulatory efforts to provide financial assistance to landowners for control and eradication of noxious weeds.

B-11 Agritourism

We support the provisions of the Agritourism Promotion Act including limits on the liability of landowners who invite the public onto their land to experience by observation and participation, rural agricultural culture and natural attractions. Tax Credits should continue to offset the high cost of liability insurance premiums and encourage others who may desire to augment their farm income through Agritourism activities.

B-12 Crop Production Inputs

Kansas Soybean Association supports policy changes that would ease supply chain delays and obstructions.

B-13 Crop Protectants

The Kansas Soybean Association supports the complete and detailed labeling of all agricultural chemicals. Persons who use agricultural chemicals in accordance with the product label instructions should not be held liable for environmental damage. We do not condone the misuse of agricultural chemicals.

We support the ability of producers to manage production in a manner that lends to timely nutrient and plant protection application.

We encourage regulatory agencies to recognize modern agricultural practices and to promulgate regulations that allow producers and dealers to be responsive to agronomic, weather, environmental and production management needs.

We oppose regulations in the storage, handling, application and transportation of agricultural inputs that create additional expense to agricultural dealers and producers without positive cost-benefit analysis.

We support a uniform, safe, effective and scientifically based system of regulating agricultural chemicals, fertilizers and pesticides, which is consistent with state and federal law and clearly communicated in a timely manner-administered by appropriate agencies and the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

We strongly support the continued exemption in Kansas law, which allows for the bartering or trading of services applying fertilizer or restricted use pesticides and other agricultural practices.

No governmental agency should have the authority to ban, or continue the ban on, the manufacture or use of any agricultural chemical unless there is conclusive, reliable scientific proof that such use is detrimental to society.

We support procedures that allow chemicals currently prohibited from regular use to be utilized by certified applicators in an emergency to control agricultural pest infestations.

We support the availability of state funding to provide cost-share monies to producers building facilities for the storage and handling of fertilizers and farm chemicals.

We encourage additional educational efforts to increase the knowledge applicators and producers have regarding new chemical technologies and their interaction on other crops.

We support research and development of methods to control weeds that are becoming resistant to chemical control measures.

B-14 Pesticide Management Areas

The Kansas Soybean Association believes the establishment and regulation of the Pesticide Management Area shall remain under jurisdiction of the Kansas State Department of Agriculture. The Kansas Soybean Association also feels that there needs to be participation by every producer within the Pesticide Management Area.

The Kansas Soybean Association supports the concept and the establishment of Pesticide Management Areas throughout the state of Kansas as recommended by the Pesticide Management Area Technical Advisor Committee.

B-15 Water Quality and Usage

The Kansas Soybean Association supports using the Kansas Water Plan as the blueprint for planning, managing, conserving, and utilizing the waters of the state. The Kansas Water Plan, developing and evolving under the direction of the Kansas Water Authority and the Kansas Water Office for the benefit of all Kansans and should be fully funded ~~by all Kansans~~ through the State General Fund or dedicated statewide revenue source.

Kansas Soybean Association supports the state authority to regulate water quality under the federal Clean Water Act. KSA also supports the current state exemption of certain private waters from water quality standards. We oppose any expansion of the Clean Water Act thru federal legislation or regulatory process, including proposals to redefine "Waters of the United States."

As water quality is a matter of state and national concern, we highly encourage all producers to use Best Management Practices. We also call for re-evaluation of federal cost share programs and increased funding to encourage Best Management Practices. We oppose any mandatory regulations that are unfunded, infringe on private property

rights without compensation, or have not been developed by peer review of scientific research.

KSA supports the reexamination of stream classifications and use designations as required by state law.

KSA supports ongoing research and data collection necessary to protect and enhance the water quality in Kansas.

B-16 State Water Policy

The Kansas Water Authority should be the agency for water management in Kansas. The Kansas Soybean Association supports the Kansas Water Plan Fund for cost sharing of land treatment for highly erodible lands and riparian areas, construction of livestock waste management facilities, grazing land management, plugging abandoned wells and upgrading rural septic systems.

KSA supports the concept of water flex accounts to provide water right holders greater flexibility in water utilization and profitability while at the same time protecting the source of supply and respecting existing water rights.

The Kansas Soybean Association opposes any modifications in the Kansas Water Transfer Act that would encourage or permit water transfers between basins which would negatively affect private property, wildlife habitat, cultural sites, and other. We oppose any changes to the water appropriations process that would weaken or remove any authority from the Chief Engineer, Division of Water Resources, Kansas State Department of Agriculture.

KSA encourages the Kansas Water Authority to carefully examine all options for addressing concerns regarding management of the High Plains-Ogallala Aquifer. Any management proposal should be submitted for public comment and ensure the protection of individual water right holders. Proposals should not place Kansas water users at a disadvantage in relation to water users in other states. When water shortages occur in any area of the state, water rights should be administered in strict adherence to their priority as set forth in the Kansas Water Appropriation Act. In over-appropriated areas where voluntary, incentive-based programs and regulatory enforcement are not practical or effective, then stakeholder driven management plans should be developed that can meet groundwater use goals without negatively impacting local economies or disadvantaging senior water right holders. If management plan goals diminish

investment backed expectations, then due compensation should be given to those water rights holders.

We support the Kansas Groundwater Management District (GMD) Act which gives local water users a voice in determining the use of groundwater. Provisions of the act relating to governance, powers and authorities, and statutory parameters for the Board of Directors composition should continue to apply to all GMDs uniformly. Any changes regarding assessment mechanisms should not be a disadvantage to agricultural producers. We support efforts to ensure that policies or guidelines of a groundwater management district are only applicable once they have been finally adopted as a regulation through the rule making process.

B-18 Banking and Marketing Programs

Kansas Soybean Association supports any program for purchasing water rights or creating water banks that are voluntary, provide financial incentives to landowners, contain a strong conservation component, protect the economic infrastructure of communities and preserve the property tax base for schools and local units of government, near the managed source of supply

Water placed in a water bank should stay within the boundaries of that specific water bank as defined at the time of deposit.

Kansas law should allow agricultural water rights holders to voluntarily participate in any state/federal controlled water storage, assurance or similar managed source of supply programs.

B-19 Air Quality

KSA supports ASA policy that opposes any effort by the EPA or judicial ruling to regulate dust whether from crop or livestock production as a pollutant.

KSA supports legislative, judicial or administrative actions to minimize the effects of environmental laws, regulations or judicial determinations on livestock operations and to maximize the economic opportunities for agricultural and livestock operations to meet such regulations. We further support legislative, judicial, or administrative actions to assure uniformity and consistency of federal and state environmental laws and regulations. KSA also supports legislative, judicial and administrative actions that allow maximum flexibility for agricultural and livestock operations to meet regulatory obligations.

KSA recognizes that the practice of controlled burning must be done in a reasonable and prudent manner so as to protect property and lives. Therefore, we support stronger involvement of local fire and law enforcement officials in the administration of the regulations. While we support reasonable restrictions on the ability to burn, as those restrictions may apply to excessive wind speed, proximity to structures, airports, and roadways, the opportunity to use a controlled burn as an agricultural practice must be retained. We encourage landowners to use innovative burning practices. We encourage our Universities and Extension Service to maintain nationally recognized programs in rangeland management including research on alternative burning practices, to support the livestock industry in Kansas.

There should be clarifications made either in the governing statutes or regulations which set out specifically which governmental entity the landowners or tenants must notify, and under what circumstances those who wish to use controlled burning must notify the appropriate governmental entity.

B-20 Sustainability

KSA supports a single national policy on sustainability of soybean production. That policy must sustain the economic viability of farm operations and enhance the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole.

B-21 Research, Extension and Education Priorities

Agriculture is the largest and most important industry in Kansas. It is advantageous to the economics of Kansas and the nation that we maintain vigorous and profitable agricultural production that is based upon the latest technology. Kansas Soybean Association urges a strong commitment by the Kansas Legislature, Regents and University Administration to the land grant tradition of teaching, research and extension.

B-22 K-State Research and Extension Service

Educational programs organized by the K-State Research and Extension Service significantly enhance farm, family, and community life and favorably impact rural revitalization, resource conservation and environmental protection.

We are concerned about the maintaining and strengthening K-State Research and Extension Service that serves youth and adults in every county in Kansas.

B-23 Academic Programs

KSA supports the development of new and innovative academic programs that address the emerging needs of Kansas agriculture. A relevant example would be a curriculum that addresses the need for qualified personnel to enter the biofuels industry.

B-24 Equity Protection of Grain/Soybean trading

In order to protect Kansas farmers, the Kansas Soybean Association supports the continuation of an effective and adequately funded state grain warehouse program requiring licensing and bonding of all commercial elevators and grain warehouses in Kansas.

We support the creation of a Kansas grain indemnity fund.

We encourage consistency in price discounts and crop insurance indemnities by using RMA approved labs to test and determine any applicable mycotoxin discounts to be used by the grain buyers.

We support the efforts to develop programs that would allow local elevators and feed mills that utilize RMA approved personnel, testing equipment, and procedures to become RMA approved labs.

B-25 Farm Continuation

KSA supports programs and policies that encourage viable beginning farm businesses.

B-26 Death Taxes

KSA supports the elimination of all forms of "death taxes." Changes to an existing inheritance, succession, or estate tax system must not increase the overall impact that the death tax places on agricultural producers.

B-27 Taxation of Kansas Agriculture

Kansas Soybean Association supports the creation of an equitable and simpler tax system utilizing a balanced system of sales, property, and income taxes that isn't detrimental to production agriculture. Continue support for funding state government through the use of sales and/or income tax without placing more burden on property

tax.

KSA supports current tax exemptions for agriculture, business, and non-profit groups to assist economic development and state competitiveness.

The ingredient or component part exemption should be maintained for the sound practice of economic development and for the assistance of manufacturing, business, industry and agriculture in this state.

KSA opposes efforts to modify the use-value appraisal methodology that would be detrimental to agriculture. KSA supports valuation of farm use elevators based on farm use value and not based on commercial value. KSA believes that the legislature needs to review inequitable taxation of stationary farmer owned non-commercial grain handling equipment.

KSA opposes the full funding of schools through property taxes and supports a balanced reliance on income tax and other non-property tax sources for the financing of local school districts.

B-28 Tax Credit for Value-Added Agri-businesses

The Kansas Soybean Association supports the concept of producer owned businesses that add value to agricultural products. We favor the establishment of tax credits by the state of Kansas for producers who invest in value-added business ventures.

B-29 Corporate Farm Law

The Kansas Soybean Association supports the opportunity for agricultural producers to operate under any business structure authorized by Kansas law. Economic or tax incentives should be equally available to any farming operation, whether a sole proprietorship, partnership, family trust, limited liability company or corporation.

We support agriculture businesses established in Kansas that are economically viable, good community partners and responsible stewards of the land. In addition, we support environmental standards that are based on practical research and sound science for agricultural production entities that are authorized, constructed and operated in Kansas. Protecting water quality and controlling odors are high priorities.

C. Exports, Market Development and Trade

C-1 Preamble

KSA recognizes that U.S. soybeans and soybean products must have fair access to world markets and must be competitive on price, quality, and availability for markets.

C-2 Trade Policy

KSA opposes the establishment of restrictions by the United States on the importation of fairly traded goods that may precipitate retaliation against the export of U.S. soybeans. Likewise, KSA supports the removal of barriers to international trade and the prevention of the establishment by other nations of barriers to the importation and consumption of U.S. soybeans and soy-based products. Products include, but are not limited to soybeans, soybeans products, as well as animal agriculture and aquaculture products.

C-3 Cuba

KSA supports the Kansas agriculture based effort for the removal of the US embargo of trade and tourist travel to Cuba. KSA supports Cuban eligibility for FMD, MAP, and export guarantee and checkoff funded credit guarantee programs.

C-4 Government Support of Market Development Export Sales

The Kansas Soybean Association supports the efforts by the American Soybean Association to urge Congress to increase funds to the Foreign Agricultural Service for Foreign Market Development (FMD), and Market Access Programs (MAP).

C-5 Assistance to Developing Nations

C-6 Quality and Grading Standards for Soybeans and Soybean Products

KSA supports adequate staffing and funding to maintain an effective state scale inspection program.

C-7 Developing Countries Debt

C-8 Government Export Assistance Programs

C-9 Market Access Program (MAP)

C-10 Export Credit Guarantee Programs

C-11 Food Aid and International Policy

C-12 WISHH

We support the Kansas Soybean Commission's involvement in the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH) due to the importance of soy protein to the health and nutrition needs of poor and developing nations. We also support the expansion of that program to include other Kansas produced products and Kansas State University's role in that program.

D. Organizational Affairs

D-1 Membership Statement

The American Soybean Association is made up of affiliated state soybean associations. These state associations provide the leadership, grass root support, and guidance to make the American Soybean Association successful.

D-2 State Membership

The Kansas Soybean Association believes it is vital to maintain and increase its membership.

D-3 Soybean Promotion and Research Checkoff

D-4 Commodity Checkoff Programs

The Kansas Soybean Association is an avid supporter of commodity checkoff. We support the commodity commissions that place producers in charge of the commission activities and the farmer check-off dollars. We strongly urge all producers to actively participate in operating their commissions and continuing their support of commodity check-off programs for research, utilization, public education and /or market development of their commodities and products. We believe specifically that the Kansas Soybean Commission and the United Soybean Board invest our checkoff dollars in a productive manner.

KSA believes that any future livestock or commodity checkoff programs should use the current template for state regulated checkoffs.

The Kansas Soybean Association recognizes that soybean profits are under attack from competitors. There are tremendous opportunities for expanded soybean profits in developing new uses, in developing markets and existing markets. To battle our competitors and implement programs to capture opportunities require investments in state, national, and international promotion and research programs.

Therefore, the Kansas Soybean Association supports the national checkoff program for soybeans (SPARC: Soybean Promotion and Research Checkoff). SPARC is farmer controlled and designed to expand soybean exports; protect and expand domestic soybean markets; develop new or improved uses for soybeans; and to inform consumers and farmers about soybeans. We feel that SPARC contains the following safeguards that the money collected will be used properly:

- 1) Everyone who benefits invests equally and fairly nationwide;
- 2) Farmer control is maintained and state representation on the national board is based on the amount of state soybean production;
- 3) National Administrative costs are capped at no more than 5% of annual collections;
- 4) Provides that 50% of the checkoff funds remain in the state to be administered by the state promotion boards;
- 5) Prohibits the use of checkoff funds for political purposes lobbying;
- 6) Provides for a poll of farmers on the need for a referendum.

D-5 United Soybean Board (USB) Directors

KSA supports ASA in using whatever means necessary to ensure the state checkoff boards receive the representation on the United Soybean Board they need and not one imposed by USDA staff or the administration.

D-6 Initiative and Referendum

We oppose the use of the initiative and referendum procedure, because it will undermine our representative form of government, impair legislative responsibility, lengthen the ballot and result in poorly drafted legislation.

D-7 Industry Support and Cooperation

D-8 Food Policy Committees

Food Policy Committees should be voluntary and should include agriculture producer members from local rural communities. We encourage Kansas Soybean Association members to participate in Food Policy Committees. We oppose Food Policy Committees creating any recommendations or standards that negatively alter our current food production system.

D-9 OSHA Regulation

KSA believes on-farm grain storage and handling is an integral part of farming operations allowing farmers to hold grain until prices are high and is therefore a fundamental aspect of farming and profit, and qualifies under the 1976 law exempting small, family-run farms with 10 or fewer employees from OSHA regulations. OSHA does not have the authority to place regulatory oversight of on-farm grain handling facilities. KSA opposes any additional actions by OSHA to tighten or remove this exemption.

D-10 Farm Safety

The Kansas Soybean Association encourages the use of safety programs that include, but are not limited to, the Farm Bureau Safety and Health Network and others that promote agricultural safety programs and encourage farmers and ranchers to install and maintain safety equipment.