

# In the Know

– A publication of the Kansas Cattlemen's Association – September 2013

## National Issues

**COOL Lawsuit** – Proudly promoting USA beef, the Kansas Cattlemen's Association Board of Directors met in August and unanimously voted to support the United States Cattlemen's Association (USCA) and Ranchers-Cattlemen's Action Legal Fund United Stockgrowers of America (R-CALF USA) in the intervention of the COOL lawsuit initially filed by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), multinational meat organizations, and foreign cattle groups. Kansas Cattlemen's Association has offered its support to both USCA and R-CALF USA. On behalf of Kansas cattlemen, the KCA Board also unanimously decided to, if an opportunity arises, to offer testimony to the court in support of country of origin labeling.

**GIPSA in Farm Bill** – KCA along with over 100 groups reached out to Congress to encourage them to remove any language that would prohibit GIPSA from enforcing the law or deny producers protection from fraud, retaliation, and illegal anticompetitive practices. **KCA continues to support the needs of independent producers.**

**Smithfield** – In early September, the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States approved Shuanghui International Holding's bid to purchase Smithfield Foods. This is the biggest buyout by the Chinese of a U.S. company to date. The deal is valued at over \$7.1 billion and results in the merging of the world's largest pork company with China's biggest pork producer.

**Chicken from China** – USDA approved four Chinese poultry processors to begin shipping cooked poultry products to the U.S. Initially, the companies will be allowed to export only cooked products from birds raised in the United States and Canada. With the COOL law lingering, this could mean that consumers would not know if their product is from the U.S. completely or was processed and cooked in China and shipped back to the U.S. Does anyone remember the melamine issue? Discussion has already risen about the U.S. government eventually expanding the rules so that chickens and turkeys bred in China could end up in the American market. What do you think about this? Let us know at [www.kansascattlemen.com](http://www.kansascattlemen.com) or 785-238-1483.

**EPA** – With the urging of many in Congress and groups such as KCA, the EPA took some action to prohibit environmental groups from obtaining producer information such as individuals' names, addresses, and telephone numbers. In a letter to the EPA and Congress, KCA expressed its concern that activist groups could use the information to harass and endanger not just producers but family ranchers and their children. These environmental groups, Environmental Integrity Project, Food & Water

Watch, The Humane Society and Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement, then turned around and sued the EPA alleging the federal agency unlawfully discarded the rule that would have authorized it to collect information. In fact, though, the same information is still collected, often from state agencies like KDHE, and provided to the EPA. The EPA has not stopped obtaining producer information; it just stopped distributing the information to extremist groups.

## State Issues

**Corporate Ag Law** – As state legislators prepared to meet in Topeka for a special session to address the "Hard 50" rule, a group of lawyers targeted Kansas' corporate ag law once again. At the request of Rep. Sharon Swartz, the Chairwoman of the House Ag Committee, the group which included two legislators, discussed the constitutionality of the law. The Kansas Department of Agriculture and corporate interests have suggested that the law needs to be thrown out. KCA and other state farm groups have been champions of this law to protect the interests of independent producers.

**A Month on the Road** – KCA staff and volunteers traveled the state throughout September to visit with producers and promote KCA policies, USA beef, and the Kansas cattleman. KCA staff also telephoned a number of members and had the privilege to hear from them about their thoughts on some of the issues that are prevalent in the industry. Many of the discussions focused on COOL. Members shared compliments, suggestions, and concerns. KCA staff always appreciates the opportunity to talk with producers and get your views. Thank you for your membership and your contributions to your industry.

**LaCrosse** – More than 65 producers came out to the LaCrosse Livestock Market to join KCA for supper and an Animal Health and Nutrition Seminar. KCA thanks Craig Talkington and Dr. Justin Welch from Merck, Grant Davidson and Dr. Blaine Corners from Zoetis, and Bernie Tonroy from High Plains Nutrition Service for providing presentations. This event was possible through the support and donations of: Bank of Hays, Dechant & Taylor Chartered, Farmers Bank and Trust, Golden Plains Trucking Inc., Gorham State Bank, High Plains Nutrition Service, Kansas State University- Research and Extension, LaCrosse Livestock Market, Lang Diesel, Merck Animal Health, Midland Marketing Co-Op, Plains Trader, Radke Implement, Inc., Ricks Food Store, The Nekoma State Bank, and Zoetis.

**Hamilton** – Thank you to all of the producers who came out to Edwards Cattle Co. and participated in the Animal Health and Nutrition Ranch Day in Hamilton. This event was possible through the support and donations of: ADM Alliance Nutrition, Ag Choice – Madison, Community

National Bank & Trust – Eureka, Diamond S Welding & Machine Shop, LLC – Eureka, Edwards Cattle Co. – Hamilton, Elanco, El Dorado Livestock Auction, Emporia Livestock Sales Co., Eureka Livestock Sales, Flint Hills Commodities - Emporia, Ivesco, Joplin Regional Stockyards, LeRoy Coop – LeRoy, Luthi Cattle Co. – Madison, Micro Beef Technologies, PrairieLand Partners – Emporia, Sowder Seed Co./Min Mix Products, Stewart Farms – Hamilton, Twin Motors - Iola, and Zoetis.

### Mark Your Calendar

**September 28 – Soldier, KS - Cattlemen’s Field Day and Cookout** - KCA and Gary Schreiber are hosting a Cattlemen’s Field Day and Membership Drive in Soldier, KS (3472 Hwy 16). The day’s events will begin at 2:00 pm and will be filled with family fun and pasture golf followed by a USA BEEF cookout and cattlemen’s meeting. The meeting will feature updates on the industry and the work that KCA does for Kansas producers. The cost to participate in the pasture golf tournament is \$35 (with discounts provided for couples and family members) or free with a new KCA membership. The meeting and supper are free and open to the public, and KCA welcomes all producers and area businesses who would like to come out and learn more about what’s going on with KCA. This is a great time to join KCA as an investment into your operation’s future.

**November 8 – KCA Annual Business Meeting – Dodge City, KS** –The KCA Annual Meeting will take place on November 8, 2013 at the Magouirk Conference Center in Dodge City, KS at 4:00 pm. All voting members of the association must be a current paid member prior to the start of the annual meeting to receive voting rights and to receive a ballot for the year. The annual meeting allows voting members to address policy, make policy recommendations,

and provide directional input for the association. All policy recommendations that pass the membership at the annual meeting are then placed on the mail-in ballot for all current voting members to decide. Nominations for the Board will be accepted during the meeting as well. If you are interested in being a part of the Board of Directors, please feel free to contact the KCA office.

**November 9 – KCA Annual Convention and Trade Show – Dodge City, KS** - The KCA Annual Convention and Trade Show will be held at Magouirk Conference Center and United Wireless Arena in Dodge City, KS. Special room rates will be available at the Hampton Inn next to the convention center for \$99.00/night and at the Dodge House Hotel for \$69.00/night when you mention the KCA room block. A free shuttle is available from the Dodge House to the Conference Center. The day’s events will begin at 7:00 am and end with the annual rollover heifer sale, auction and evening banquet. This year’s presenters include, Dr. Nels Lindberg addressing animal health, Dr. Tom Noffisinger providing cattle handling dos and don’t’s, Climatologist Mary Knapp, and Luke Schwieterman, Dominic Varricchio, Rick Overton. These three gentlemen from Schwieterman Inc. will address the markets while KFSA talks farm and feed yard safety and the cost/savings involved. Each year, KCA works to make the convention even better; so mark your calendars and prepare for another exciting KCA Convention.

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