

## **Fort Collins Meeting about Promoting Competition Not GIPSA Rule**

A meeting that was intended to hear from the industry regarding competition has been manipulated. Some groups have turned this meeting into an anti GIPSA rule meeting, which is not the intent of the meeting.

In the first months of the year, the U.S. Department of Justice set up a number of meetings to address competition in agriculture. The DoJ vowed it would get a better insight into various sectors of the industry including pork, dairy, poultry, and beef. The meeting set in Fort Collins on Friday, August 27 was scheduled and planned long before USDA and GIPSA proposed its current rule.

“It is tremendously disheartening that producers are being misled to believe that this meeting is bad for the industry and that folks should go to address this new GIPSA rule. This meeting was never about the GIPSA rule. It is about competition in the industry. Kansas Cattlemen are going to support competition. We are going with the opportunity to be able to tell our stories, how we have experienced competition or the lack thereof, and how anti competitive practices have affected our operations. We are going to express our need for competition to stay in business. We are not going to Fort Collins to fight about a GIPSA rule. I would hope that every producer, every small town business man will go to Fort Collins for the workshop on Friday Aug 27. Rural America, especially in Kansas, relies heavily on agriculture and cattle production. By going to Ft Collins and supporting competition and supporting the livelihood of producers, we can help keep rural America alive and prosperous. I do not know why anyone would oppose that,” stated KCA executive Director Brandy Carter.

Kansas Cattlemen’s Association has a charter bus leaving at 7:00 am Thursday Aug 26<sup>th</sup> from Village Charters in Wichita. It will be making stops along the way to Fort Collins. Any interested person is welcome to join the number of producers going in support of competition. KCA is offering seats at \$95/seat.

The bus stop schedule is as follows:

Leave Wichita from Village Charters (8620 W 21<sup>st</sup> St.) at 7:00 am

Arrive in McPherson at 8:00 am at Orschlen’s Parking Lot – Bus will depart at 8:10 am

Arrive in Salina at 8:45 am at Bosselman Travel Center off of Exit 252 & I-70 -Bus will leave at 8:55 am

Arrive in Russell at 10:05 am at 24/7 Store off of Exit 184 & I-70 - Bus will depart at 10:15

Arrive in Ellis at 11:00 at the Ellis Travel Plaza off of Exit 145 & I-70 - Bus will depart at 11:10

Arrive in Colby at 12:40 at the Colby Oasis Travel Center off of Exit 53 & I-70 (Bus will stop so passengers may purchase lunch) Bus will depart at 1:30 pm

Arrive in Limon, CO at 2:45 pm (MST) Limon Travel Center off of Exit 359 and I-70 – Bus will depart at 2:55pm

Possible stop in Denver for Rest break at 4:30 (as needed)

The bus will be returning to Kansas upon conclusion of the meeting on Aug 27<sup>th</sup>. Interested parties should contact the Kansas Cattlemen's Association at 785-238-1483 to get additional event bus and hotel information. It is not too late to participate.