

KCA Hosts Meetings to Provide New Program Info

On Tuesday, March 8th and Thursday, March 10th, Kendra Riley from the Kansas Animal Health Department, presented information to almost a hundred people on animal disease traceability and the framework that the USDA has implemented towards tracing animal disease.

Riley outlined the three phases for which USDA would define the success and possible full implementation of the traceability program by 2015. In attempts to track diseases, USDA has provided guidelines to allow individual states to set up a program to track cattle that travel interstate. The first phase of this program would track cattle age 18 months. Riley repeatedly mentioned that “The USDA doesn’t want this system to hinder the speed of commerce”. During the meetings, many producers expressed the inherent time it takes to tag cattle....resulting in the hindrance of commerce. Riley responded by stating that once animals are tagged and recorded into the state’s system, they will not need to be recorded again unless there is the possibility of infection.

The attendees were receptive to Riley’s presentation but asked questions pertaining to individual producer situations. Following Kendra’s presentation, Kelsey Gibson also expressed to the audience that the Kansas Cattlemen’s Association is a proponent for animal disease prevention; this takes place by addressing animal health and foreign diseases. KCA does have animal disease policy that states that in support of animal health and disease prevention, the KCA will be involved in discussions with policy makers and industry groups. Producer members have determined that KCA should advocate on behalf of them by supporting visual tagging and branding and a voluntary producer initiative rather than a federal mandatory animal ID system.

The KCA would like to thank everyone who attended and supported the Kansas Cattlemen’s Association as it held these informational meeting. KCA would also like to thank Kendra Riley for speaking at the event and maintaining open communication with the association.

These meetings and the free suppers could not have been possible without our sponsors: Ronnie & Wah-Leeta Rogers –Cedar Vale, David Rogers –Wichita; Robin & Amy Rogers Cattle –Cedar Vale; Brown’s Tire & Auto Repair –Grenola; Two Rivers Coop –Arkansas City; Orscheln Farm & Home –Arkansas City; Howard State Bank –Cedar Vale; Schwan’s Home Food Service –Winfield; John Schmidt & Sons, Inc.- Winfield; Community National Bank & Trust –Winfield; Winfield Livestock Auction Co., Inc. –Winfield;

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If you would like more information regarding the Animal Disease Traceability Program and would like to let us know what your thoughts are, please feel free to call the KCA office at 785-238-1483. Remember, we work for you.

By: Kelsey Gibson and
Brandy Carter