

# In the KNOW

— A publication of the Kansas Cattlemen's Association May 22-June 6

## National Issues:

**Checkoff** – CBB and the NCBA recently met and came to an agreement regarding the Beef Checkoff. During the meeting, the CBB and NCBA agreed that the CBB will continue to administer the Beef Checkoff Program and NCBA will continue as the Checkoff contractor.

CBB and NCBA agree to work together to develop a clearer understanding of the expectations and consequences related to compliance with the Act and Order, and a new joint agreement will be developed. Work will continue under the prior joint committee coordination agreement until a new agreement is reached.

KCA continues to have grave concerns that appropriate action has not been taken to address the misappropriation of Checkoff funds. KCA actively supports a full audit by the USDA Inspector General. KCA also insists that producers should have access to financial information regarding the Checkoff and not just pie charts of four or five categories of spending. Moreover, KCA continuously works to promote the opportunity for any Beef Checkoff paying producer to be considered for the state beef council. The Checkoff Program belongs to the cattlemen and it should not be monopolized by any one policy driven organization.

**EPA** - KCA is pleased with a recent ruling prohibiting the EPA from requiring feed yards and other animal feeding operations to obtain discharge permits under the Clean Water Act. The EPA was attempting to mandate that feeding operations obtain a permit with the presumption of the likelihood that they might pollute state waters.

Polluting state waters violates the Clean Water Act and by requiring a permit, some might believe that the EPA is trying to make farmers and ranchers liable for actions that they do not take. Over the last several years, the EPA has created regulations that target farmers and ranchers.

KCA spoke with KDHE and this judgment, although relevant, would not specifically affect Kansas

producers because our state has statutes overseeing water regulations.

If your operation has over 1000 animal units, your operation should have a water pollution control permit. This will keep you compliant with state laws. If you do not have over 1000 animal units, you are not required to have the water pollution control permit.

## State Issues:

**Flint Hills Burning** – Senator Jerry Moran, introduced legislation that would exempt landowners and local governments from Clean Air Act rules as they relate to the prescribed burning.

“Rather than have to worry about a schedule dictated by the EPA, this legislation will allow landowners to manage prescribed burning around the forces of weather and other factors impacting safe conditions, while at the same time preserve a unique ecosystem,” Moran said in a statement.

Karl Brooks, EPA administrator for the region covering Kansas and other Midwest states, said that “no one disagrees” that fire plays an important role in maintaining the tallgrass prairie ecosystem.

He said the smoke management plan which is currently in place contains “no regulatory provisions that affect Flint Hills landowners.”

KCA received several calls this spring related to the prohibition of burning, and explained that the Smoke Management Plan is a voluntary program and contacted appropriate personnel to ensure landowners' rights.

## Where's KCA?

**Dodge City** – Brandy Carter and Kelsey Gibson went to Dodge City on April 29<sup>th</sup> to visit with area cattlemen and on April 30<sup>th</sup> both helped with the Cattlemen's Golf tournament at the Dodge City Country Club. This unique experience allowed KCA staff and Board of Directors to network with community leaders, some affiliated with agriculture and some not. All profits from the tournament went to benefit KCA. Through this event, KCA was able to gain 16 new members