

Kansas Cattlemen's Association

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Cattlemen Vote on Policies

As a result of the November 2010 Annual Meeting, Kansas cattlemen recently sent in their voting ballot to address a number of policies of the Kansas Cattlemen's Association (KCA).

"Every producer member receives a mail-in ballot so that everyone has a say as to the direction of the KCA. This year, there were a number of renewed policies, but there were also some changes in policies. Some of those changes will affect how KCA handles issues within the areas of national ID, trade, mandatory price reporting, and the Beef Checkoff," Executive Director Brandy Carter remarked.

Once again the KCA membership voted to renew its position to stay involved in both state and national legislative issues. But when it came to specific issues, producers had a lot to say through their votes.

The Kansas Cattlemen's Association has always supported animal health and disease prevention, and this year membership specifically directed the association to be involved with other groups and agencies to promote animal health and animal disease prevention; When addressing Animal Disease Traceability (ADT), producers have asked KCA to support identifying cattle through visual tags and brands and to support a voluntary producer initiative rather than a federally mandated animal ID system.

"As USDA continues to move toward ADT, KCA will be sure to follow the direction in which producers have instructed us to go," Carter stated.

Trade was a big issue last year as USDA considered acknowledging disease free zones within Foot and Mouth Diseased countries. This, as well as other emerging unfair trade agreements, led producers to take action. KCA will continue to promote trade quotas and tariffs in trade negotiations so that the cattle industry is represented fairly; but also, KCA will support trade negotiations that mandate and enforce disease prevention protocols that are equal to or above USDA standards. KCA membership has made it a priority to protect U.S. animal health as well and the U.S. consumer.

Working to promote transparency in the market, cattlemen also voted to promote more transparency within mandatory price reporting. KCA will take this issue to USDA and

strongly advocate to make information more accessible and our industry more transparent.

Understanding the importance of the Beef Checkoff, producers made it very clear that KCA must be involved in Beef Checkoff issues; producers asked KCA to seek representation on the Kansas Beef Council, encourage USDA to mandate that each state beef council develop a process in which members of the state beef councils be directly elected by Beef Checkoff paying producers themselves, support a separation of the Federation of State Beef Councils from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, and support a complete audit to ensure Beef Checkoff money is be used appropriately. Most of all, KCA members directed the association to continue to pursue using Beef Checkoff monies for the promotion of USA Beef.

Members also voted to increase the yearly dues from \$35 to \$50. This small increase will allow KCA to provide more services to its members and be more involved in the industry.

A complete and detailed list of all of KCA's resolutions and by-laws can be found at www.kansascattlemen.com