

# KCA News

KANSAS CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

April 2015

## KCA Hosts County Meeting in Corning, Kansas

Members of the Kansas Cattlemen's Association (KCA) met in Corning, Kansas to discuss industry topics on the evening of March 19, 2015 at the Corning Community Center. The free event was open to the public, and it included a free USA Beef supper. ImmuCell provided a calf welfare presentation, and KCA provided updates regarding current legislation and other issues facing independent cattle producers. The meeting wrapped up with a presentation on the Beef Checkoff followed by an auction of a Triple C, Inc. toolbox and an alfalfa bale donated by Pfrang Farms.

"We were happy to have such a great turnout to the meeting. The city of Corning is always very welcoming and willing to help out in so many ways. With the meeting being open and free to the public, we see many people come in that are interested in the current events affecting local independent producers. Many factors facing agriculture today have a direct effect on rural communities all across the state, so supporting the independent producer is supporting the rural way of life in Kansas," stated Gary Schreiber, KCA Board Member.

Matt Hutchins of ImmuCell kicked off the meeting with a presentation on calf welfare. Attendees learned which techniques work and which don't with regard to calving and the prevention of scours. According to ImmuCell, there is nearly a 15% death

rate from scours prior to weaning, and an additional 20% that recover, but at a significant cost as compared to having never developed scours.

"With a 57% economic loss taking place within the first 24 hours and up to 75% in the first 7 days, it is important to have a scours prevention program in place in your cow/calf operation. ImmuCell has found a solution which statistically provides immediate immunity with our First Defense products," stated Hutchins.

KCA is actively supporting independent producers in Topeka and Washington, D.C. Staff updated attendees on current legislation, Beef Checkoff, USDA Dietary Guidelines, and Country of Origin Labeling. Numerous members expressed an interest in Senate Bill SB178, and how it would affect their property tax liabilities if it were to become part of the Kansas tax law.

"KCA is prepared to provide testimony to the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee when Senate Bill 178 is scheduled for a hearing. We can overcome a drought, late freeze, or a hail storm, but this legislation would pull the rug right out from under the farmer's and rancher's feet, and we just cannot let that happen," stated Tyler Dupy, KCA Executive Director.

The final presentation of the evening, "Is there a firewall between KLA and KBC," was provided by KCA members Jim Dobbins and David Pfrang. The presentation discussed the authority of the Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) over the Kansas Beef Council (KBC). Attendees learned of the option to redirect the 50% share of the \$1 per head assessment which goes to the KBC to the Cattlemen's Beef Board (CBB), which is the national administrator for the Beef Checkoff.

"We fully support a Beef Checkoff. What we question is the administration of the dollar that we as producers are required to pay. Without a clear firewall between KLA and KBC, and a total lack of transparency, how do we know our own dollars aren't used to promote conflicting interests?" asked Jim Dobbins.

The meeting adjourned following the giveaway of door prizes and an auction of donated items from area businesses.



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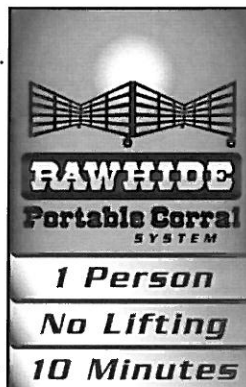
The Kansas Cattlemen's Association has advertising and sponsorship opportunities available. As a non-profit 503c(5), KCA depends on your contributions to help independent producers receive representation in Topeka and Washington, D.C. KCA is fully funded by member and sponsor donations. KCA News is the regular KCA publication, and is circulated throughout the state to members, vendors, advertisers, feed yards, and sale barns as well as online. For more information regarding advertising, sponsorship, and more, please contact the KCA offices at 785-238-1483 or online at [www.kansascattlemen.com](http://www.kansascattlemen.com).

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# KCA Cattlemen's College June 13, 2015

The Kansas Cattlemen's Association (KCA) will be hosting a 2015 Cattlemen's College in Salina, Kansas at the Courtyard by Marriott on June 13, 2015. A full day of seminars and other activities are currently being planned. Those wishing to participate are asked to contact the KCA offices by phone at 785-238-1483. The cattlemen's college is an opportunity for both members and non-members of the association, however prior registration is a requirement to attend the event.

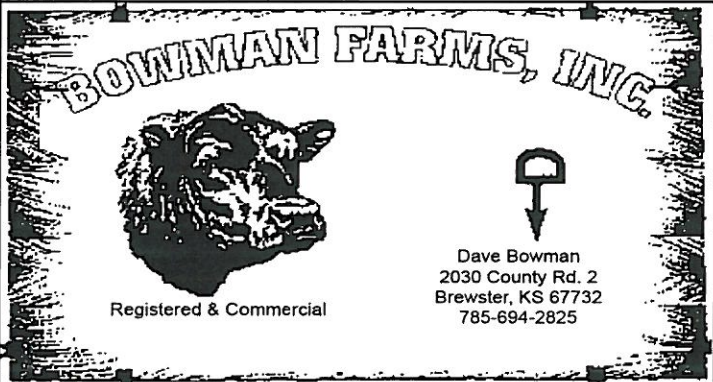


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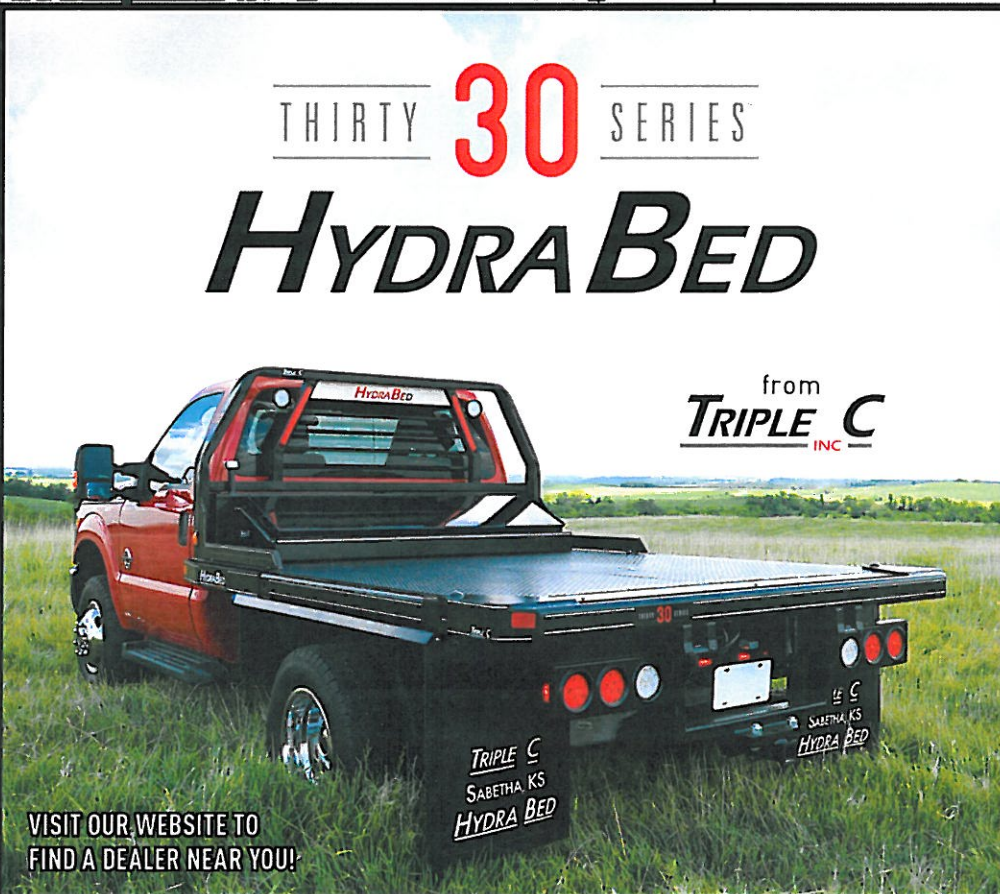
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# A Presidential Farewell.....Perry Owens

Hello Fellow Cattle Producers:

I hope all is well in your world. I guess this is my farewell letter after three years on the board as president. It has gone by fast, I'll tell you that. It has been an honor to have the chance to serve this fine organization and all the great people. We don't always agree, but we all have an overall common goal: the survival of the independent cattleman.

I want to thank my wife for helping and supporting me through this term. So, THANK YOU! To the great people on the board that I've gotten to know, thanks to you, and both Brandy and Tyler for all of their help. Thank you all.

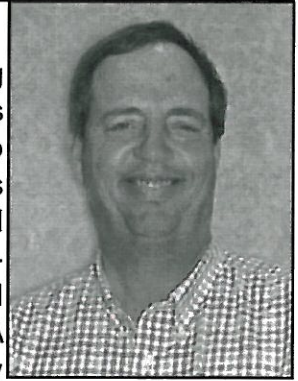
Now I will get on my soap box one last time. There have been a lot of changes in the last three years. Some have been good and some bad. A lot more will come, so don't sit in the coffee shop and gripe. Get involved! We will win some and maybe lose more, but if you don't try to do something, I guarantee it will never get better.

There are a lot of things going on now with COOL, animal ID is still coming, possible changes to Beef Checkoff, new EPA rules to come, humane society to deal with, a requirement for Beef Quality Assurance certification to sell your cattle at some point, FDA regulations to come, and many more things I can't imagine. My point is, don't leave it to just a few to get involved.

We have an unreal market right now, so it's easy to rest. However, now is the time to be proud, be heard, and be brave. You are a Kansas cattleman.

Thanks be to God, Amen.

- Perry L. Owens



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## New KCA Board of Directors Take Office

The Kansas Cattlemen's Association will welcome three new board members to the board beginning April 13, 2015. Retiring members of the board include, Perry Owens, Dave Bowman, and John Ericson. All retiring members have served on the board since April 2012.

The voting KCA membership elected Alan Stewart, Spencer Crowther, and Landon Shaw in December 2014 to take the place of the retiring board members. Each of the new board members will serve a term of three years. At the time of publication, the executive committee of the Board of Directors had not yet been determined.

**Spencer Crowther** – Originally from Roxbury, Kansas, Spencer and his wife, Alyssa, now reside in Hanover where they are raising their two children, Rustin and Rhett. Spencer has a tremendous cattle background, growing up in the cow/calf and feeder sectors of the industry. Spencer raises purebred Charolais and purebred Angus under his own brand, Double C Ranch. As well, Spencer partners with and manages the Laue Charolais Ranch, the nation's leading breeder of colored Charolais. The ranch has been breeding Charolais cattle for over 50 years. The ranch also raises registered quarter horses and operates a thoroughbred stable. In addition to being a member of Kansas Cattlemen's Association, Spencer is a member of the Washington County Fair Board, a member of the Saddle Club, an American Royal Governor, and the beef leader for the Hanover 4-H Chapter.

**Landon Shaw** – Landon is the assistant manager at McPherson County Feeders. MCF is an 11,000 head yard that runs 80% customer-owned cattle, working with customers from across the United States, including Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Kansas. A graduate of Texas Tech University, Landon graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Animal Science and a Master's in Ruminant Nutrition. Landon and his wife, Shelby, have a three year old son, Quentin, and reside in Galva, Kansas. Passionate about KCA, Landon feels that there are a number of issues important to him and fellow producers. Landon supports country of origin labeling. Landon believes that KCA needs to be vigilant in its work to preserve negotiated prices. The overreach of the EPA and its control over the waters of the U.S. continue to hinder producers. As well, Landon feels it is important for KCA to have a seat at the table and be a leader in regards to addressing the need for check-off reform.

**Alan Stewart** – After working across the state of Kansas in the COOP elevator business for 38 years, Alan returned to his home town of Bronson, Kansas where he runs a stocker operation. He and his wife, Charlotte, have seven children and 28 grandchildren. Alan is happy with the current market and hopes producers can continue to make money. Alan feels that KCA is an organization that protects the interests of producers, monitors laws and regulations, and is a voice for cattlemen in Topeka and Washington D.C.

### Contact The New Board Members

**Spencer Crowther**

785-212-0520

scrowther32@gmail.com

**Landon Shaw**

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landon@hughes.net

**Alan Stewart**

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Any type of political hiccup or change in attitude in the Middle East can drive oil prices back up overnight; your other concern, time is limited to take advantage of lower steel prices is this: Drops are a *double edged sword*. The oil field is arguably the largest consumer of pipe in our country, as pipe is used both to drill and complete wells. The oil price collapse has most mills that specialize in oil country tubular products either shutting down or have vast excess capacity. Consequently; any time supply exceeds demand, regardless the commodity, prices drop. The odd fact that affects ranchers like us using pipe for our fences and corrals, we rely on these same mills to produce the reject and secondary pipe that we depend on. Therefore, the availability of this pipe is rapidly drying up. Soon, very soon the demand will exceed the supply and pipe prices will rise.

Don't count on used pipe to supply our market, either. Those of you that know me or follow my blogs know that I think using used pipe in corrals and fences is a huge mistake; but that is a whole other subject. However, what we know having experienced this before: oil field operators will re-use their used pipe more, rather than purchasing new in order to save money. This means that by the time that used pipe is released into our market it is totally worn out, used up. I would not use it if it were given to me; but that's just me.

*Are you planning on building or expanding your fencing & corrals in the next year?  
Now is the time to stock up! I honestly feel pipe prices are at the low end of the spectrum.  
That's what my crystal ball says anyway.*

- Bob Studebaker

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# KCA at work in Topeka and Washington, D.C.

The Kansas Cattlemen's Association (KCA) continues to track legislation for KCA members and other independent producers. Upon their return from spring break, state lawmakers will continue their work to balance the state budget and attempt to pass a 2016 and 2017 budget. As appropriations are completed by lawmakers, KCA will be there to review the bills and offer testimony.

The state budget has dominated this legislative session, and agriculture has been among the many sectors targeted to help fill the gaps caused by deep cuts in the state income tax. Senate Bills 261 and 264 propose the elimination of prior tax exempt statuses on residential and agriculture utilities as well as farm machinery and equipment and the service, repair, or replacement parts for farm machinery and equipment. The financial impact of these exemptions would produce an estimated \$223 million in additional state revenues for fiscal year 2016. KCA opposes both SB261 and SB264, and has developed testimony in support of producer interests.

Senate Bill 178 proposes an increase in ag-use land valuations, and threatens a possible 400-700% increase in land value assessments. The bill was previously scheduled for hearing in the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation, however was later removed from the hearing schedule. KCA opposes this legislation, and will continue to keep track of its unlikely progress in the 2015 legislative session.

Governor Sam Brownback signed into law, Senate Bill 45 on April 2, 2015 concerning concealed firearms. The bill adds language allowing the concealed carry of a firearm without a concealed carry license issued by the State of Kansas, as long as that individual is not prohibited from possessing a firearm under either federal or state law. The law prohibits anyone under the age of 21 to carry any pistol, revolver, or other concealed firearm except when on the person's land or fixed place of business.

The USDA is accepting nominations to serve on the Cattlemen's Beef Board (CBB). Any beef producer in the United States that owns cattle or any importer who imports cattle or beef can be considered for nomination. All eligible producers and importers are invited to seek nomination by June 5, 2015. Producers and importers must be nominated through a USDA certified producer organization and submit the appropriate paperwork. The KCA is a certified producer organization, and continues to seek nominations that balance the CBB with independent producer perspectives.

Avian flu has been the talk of numerous eastern communities as reports of positive cases have been confirmed. The Kansas Department of Agriculture Animal Health indicates no concern for bird to bovine transmission of the disease, but reminds the public that bird to human transmission is not unfounded in H5N1 & HPAI strains, so use caution. The overall health concern for humans is relatively low as compared to typical influenza.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Gina McCarthy announced the proposed rule previously called "Waters of the US" has now been renamed to "Clean Water Rule." McCarthy has stated that the EPA is working to finalize the proposed rule by the end of the 2015 summer. The Senate Agriculture Committee, chaired by Kansas Senator, Pat Roberts, held a hearing on March 24, 2015, to hear testimony from stakeholders regarding the proposed rule.

"I find it particularly troubling that despite the unanimous outcry from a broad coalition of stakeholders and industries that have voiced concern about the manner and process by which EPA advanced this proposed rule, EPA continues to plunge ahead. Changing the name is not enough. Change the rule," stated Chairman Roberts.



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# USDA Dietary Guidelines Fail to Provide Balance

Every five years, the USDA and the Department of Health and Human Services develop the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee (DGAC). They are tasked with the review of scientific and medical knowledge to determine recommendations for the next edition of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The current committee recently produced the 2015 guidelines and they have been made available at health.gov. The prominent direction of the guidelines limits the American diet to the consumption of fruits, vegetables, and nuts, and is based primary on that of a "Mediterranean style".


meets the "meat, poultry, and eggs" recommendation. Many experts have criticized the new guidelines, citing a total lack of acknowledgment of a lean red meat diet having numerous nutritional benefits.


The Board of Directors of the Kansas Cattlemen's Association is currently developing comments to be submitted to the USDA during the open comment period. Comments are being accepted until May 8, 2015, which was previously extended. Members of the public are encouraged to provide comments.

The recommendation of the committee was that a healthy dietary pattern is lower in red meat. The DGAC report indicates that nearly 80% of the US population

Submit Comments to:  
<http://www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines>.

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## KCA Calendar

- 05/02/2015**    **Membership Meeting**  
Madison, Kansas  
- BQA Certification  
- Animal Health & Nutrition Seminars
  
- 06/13/2015**    **Cattlemen's College**  
Salina, Kansas
  
- July 9, 2015**    **Membership Meeting**  
McPherson, Kansas
  
- 07/17/2015**    **Four State Farm Show**  
July 17-19 Pittsburg, Kansas
  
- 08/15/2015**    **Cattlemen's Field Day**  
Soldier, Kansas  
- Activities  
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- 11/20/2015**    **Annual Membership Meeting**  
Dodge City, Kansas
  
- 11/21/2015**    **Annual Convention & Trade Show**  
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## KCA Moves to New Office and Acquires Billboard

The physical offices of the Kansas Cattlemen's Association (KCA) are in a transition. During the month of April, KCA will move into its new office complex in Junction City, Kansas. The new location is at the corner of 8th and Washington Streets, and can be found among other retail and professional service establishments.

not be able to miss it and it will look great," stated Tyler Dupy, KCA Executive Director.

The billboard spans 9ft by 13ft. Donations to have the billboard dressed with the 'Demand USA Beef' branding can be mailed to the new office location or by calling the office to make a donation via credit or debit card.

"The new location is a quieter office and will help better serve our members. The new space provides a professional atmosphere while providing KCA the opportunity to save some money. We are also excited to have such a prominent billboard available. We are seeking donations to have the 'Demand USA Beef' brand installed. When complete, you will

The new location address is 725 N. Washington St., Junction City, KS 66441. The phone numbers for the office will remain the same, 785-238-1483. Members and the public are always welcome to come by and visit with KCA staff.

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