

KLA stands ready to help

WHEN PROBLEMS ARISE, KLA IS THERE TO SERVE AS A RESOURCE FOR MEMBERS

One of the valuable services KLA provides members is troubleshooting on legal, tax and other issues. Paying annual dues gives KLA members access to decades of staff experience with challenges involving state agencies, local government, the legal system and more.

In addition to troubleshooting, KLA is there for members even when they don't ask for help. Representing members' common business interests in national organizations and discussions is a common occurrence.

There also are many programs conducted specifically for members, including the KLA Young Stockmen's Academy, the KLA Leadership Conference, KLA ranch management field days, the Kansas Junior Livestock Show and educational seminars throughout the year. To top it off, KLA plans and carries out one of the largest agricultural conventions in the state, where members can learn, discuss industry issues with other producers, socialize and form association policy.

When everything is added up, KLA is there for members at almost every fork in the road and it shows in these examples.

A member called with questions regarding the use of eminent domain for wind generation. Staff informed them eminent domain cannot be used for the development of wind towers on their property and that the company must negotiate with the member if they want to obtain a wind lease for the property.

Feedyards, dairies and swine operations can complete expansion and renovation projects exempt from sales tax by applying for a special permit. KLA has helped a number of members take advantage of this valuable exemption. Members considering a project should call the KLA office first.

A KLA member called the office with questions about constructing some new cattle feeding pens. Before doing so, KLA staff was able to provide a review of applicable regulatory licenses. Most commonly, those include water quality permits from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, water quantity permits from the Kansas Division of Water Resources and an animal health facility license from the Kansas Division of Animal Health. Others, ranging from fuel storage to storm water runoff to animal disposal, also may apply.

KLA staff drafted a long-term pasture lease for a member with a new landowner. The lease was personalized to meet the needs of the member and incorporated terms to address potential issues that could arise during the term of the lease.

A member called with questions about a lease offer for solar generation on their property. Staff reviewed the lease and made suggestions to the landowner on items to ask for or negotiate further before making a decision.

Thirty years ago, feedyard operators turned to KLA for help with workers' compensation. Rates were rising fast and there wasn't much help with safety specific to livestock. That's when KLA formed the first-ever statewide, self-insured workers' compensation program for livestock operators. Members of the program have made feedyards, dairies and swine operations a safer place to work. Safer workplaces have resulted in more than \$19 million in dividends being distributed to pool members since the program began.

A KLA member called with questions about sales tax exemptions for a feedyard expansion. Staff assisted the member in filing a project exemption form with the Kansas Department of Revenue to obtain a tax identification number.

KLA staff assisted a member whose cattle had gotten out due to weather-related fence damage and were hit by a vehicle. Staff explained the burden is on the individual driving the automobile to prove the owner was negligent in maintaining a legal enclosure for the cattle. This protects livestock owners from excessive liability.

A KLA member was considering constructing some new pens that would be used to wean and background calves. Before making the investment, the member wanted to understand what regulations might apply. KLA staff visited the location to discuss regulatory requirements of confined feeding operations.