

# Troubleshooting is a dues benefit

## MAXIMIZE THE VALUE OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP BY CALLING KLA WHEN PROBLEMS ARISE

Hundreds of calls come into the KLA office every year from members looking for help. The staff tries to troubleshoot in these situations and arrive at a solution that addresses the member's problem. Many times, multiple members or the entire membership face the same dilemma.

Read the following examples to see if the help provided to another KLA member also might benefit you. Or, if you have a unique problem KLA can help resolve, please call the office. In many cases, answers uncovered by the KLA staff save members time and money.

**A** KLA member contacted the office when preparing to build a new feed mill. KLA reviewed items that would be purchased for the project and advised how sales tax should be applied. Properly paying sales tax can save KLA members thousands of dollars annually.

**K**LA offers members educational opportunities designed to enhance leadership skills. The Young Stockmen's Academy and KLA Leadership Conference expose members to the broad array of services provided by KLA, all segments of the beef supply chain, the importance of livestock industry advocacy and the impact of individual member involvement in the organization. Many graduates of the programs have gone on to hold influential industry leadership positions at the state and national levels.

**A** KLA member was considering building a few pens for weaning and pre-conditioning calves. The member contacted KLA for guidance and advice before beginning construction. A number of considerations need to be made before building a new facility and KLA staff can help members through the maze of regulatory compliance. KLA staff also can direct members to professional technical resources, including KLA Environmental Services, with the capability of designing facilities that meet permitting requirements.

**W**ater rights are complicated. The right indicates the amount of water that can be used, the place it can be used, what it can be used for and the rate at which it can be pumped from the ground. Rights get more complicated when used in conjunction with each other. A KLA member called the office for assistance sorting out how their allocated stockwater quantity was authorized.

**A** KLA member was shopping for a skid steer loader and the local dealer indicated sales tax would be due upon purchase. The member talked to staff to clarify the skid steer purchase should be exempt from sales tax if the intended use is for agriculture. KLA provided the pertinent language from the business tax guide and the exemption request form.

**M**ultiple members have contacted KLA staff regarding fence law. This can be a complicated and convoluted subject. However, it is rooted in the requirement that adjoining landowners not using land in common must contribute equally to a partition fence. There are specific statutes governing how to handle controversies regarding partition fences and it is extremely important to adhere to the procedures spelled out in statute. In some cases, if a landowner fails to follow such procedures, the recovery of costs of building a fence becomes limited. KLA staff advises members how to navigate those treacherous waters.

**A** KLA member who was a tenant under an oral pasture lease called because the landlord tried to increase cash rent during the current grazing season. KLA legal staff explained that rent, under an oral lease, only can be increased by giving written notice 30 days prior to March 1. KLA was able to work with the member to keep the landlord from increasing the rent.

**U**tilities needed to pump and circulate water and process feed for livestock are exempt from sales tax. A member called the office to confirm the exemption after noticing changes to their utility bill. While the exemption previously had been provided, a billing system change at the utility company inadvertently caused sales tax to be added. KLA provided the necessary documentation and the member was able to claim a refund and ensure the exemption moving forward.

**A** KLA member was considering expansion of their feeding operation. Early in the planning stages, the member contacted KLA to make sure separation distance to habitable structures was met. ■