

# KLA is here to help

## MEMBERS CAN TURN TO KLA WHEN CHALLENGES ARISE

One of the key values KLA provides members is troubleshooting on legal, regulatory, 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.

For example, KLA staff can help members dealing with fencing disputes, agricultural zoning roadblocks, tax exemption questions and farm lease situations, among others. KLA is there even when members 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 and educational seminars. To top it off, KLA hosts one of the largest agricultural conventions in the state, where members can learn, discuss common industry concerns with their peers, socialize and form association policy.

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

**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**any pasture leases are oral in Kansas. Multiple members have called regarding the procedure to terminate an oral lease. KLA legal staff informed them a landlord must provide written notice terminating the lease at least 30 days prior to March 1. The same is true for members leasing property. KLA has assisted members who are both landlords and tenants faced with lease termination.

**K**LA members frequently call regarding transportation in agriculture. KLA staff helps members navigate the farm vehicle exemption from commercial driver's licensing requirements. Advice also is available on how to obtain a U.S. Department of Transportation number for those traveling in interstate commerce.

**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.

**F**eedyards, 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.

**N**early 30 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 nearly \$18 million in dividends being distributed to pool members since the program began.

**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.

**T**he most effective way to control the cost of insurance is to have fewer accidents. More importantly, a culture of safety creates a positive work environment, keeps people from getting hurt and, overall, serves the business well. KLA holds a number of safety seminars each year to assist feedyards and dairies as they work to create a safer workplace.

**K**LA frequently gets questions about tagging and registration requirements for implements of husbandry. When a member called in, he was given the definition of an implement of husbandry, which is a vehicle designed, adapted and used exclusively for agricultural operations, including feedlots, and only incidentally moved or operated upon the highway. Among other equipment, tractors, manure trucks and feedtrucks specifically are listed as implements of husbandry. In this case, the member's vehicle was not operated on the highway and, therefore, a tag was not required. ■