

KLA is a valuable resource

KLA STANDS READY WHEN MEMBERS HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT THEIR BUSINESSES

KLA provides a host of beneficial services to members. Possibly the most valuable is troubleshooting for individuals on issues affecting their businesses. Some member questions are related to legal issues, while others are not. Examples include how fence law applies to a partition fence, whether certain farm equipment is subject to sales tax, rules about terminating an oral pasture lease and regulations governing water rights.

Members are encouraged to call KLA when these and other issues arise. Staff has a wealth of experience providing guidance to members on numerous topics. In most cases, the challenge faced by an individual member likely previously has been encountered by another member and handled by KLA staff. Take advantage of this wealth of organizational knowledge by calling KLA for troubleshooting assistance. This is another way to maximize the value of your membership!

A KLA member had purchased some cows and heifers from an out-of-state sale over the weekend, and an import permit was required to bring the animals across state lines. However, the online permitting system available on the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) website was not working correctly. A KLA staff member was called and immediately able to connect with the proper contact at KDA, who told them the website had crashed. Staff then connected the member with the KDA contact and a verbal permit was issued the same day.

KLA provided safety training seminars during the summer of 2024, with multiple workshops in Garden City, Great Bend and Lyons. Topics covered included horse and cowboy safety, machinery and equipment operation safety, and mill and maintenance safety. Following these seminars, more than 200 employees went back to their respective operations with new ideas and approaches for preventing accidents and saving lives.

During the public outreach phase of a potential state highway project, KLA members learned of a proposed detour that would add significant miles to many trucks hauling feeder and fed cattle. KLA relayed this concern to the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). Ultimately, KDOT agreed to make changes. The project still will require closure and a detour, but only for a short portion of the multi-year project.

A KLA member had difficulty renewing their brand registration and called the office for assistance. KLA worked with the Livestock Brands Program staff to solve the issue and the member was able to successfully renew their brand. Brand registrations are good for five years and are managed by the KDA-Division of Animal Health.

Farm trailers are considered farm machinery and equipment and, therefore, can be purchased exempt from sales tax and property tax. Trailers with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 6,000 lbs. are required to be registered and tagged. A KLA member called the office to confirm these details when trading trailers.

An injury accident occurred at a member feedyard that required a report be made to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). KLA Safety Director Wyatt Schroeder was in the area the day of the accident and promptly stopped by to conduct an investigation. Schroeder provided a report of his findings and made recommendations on how to prevent another injury. OSHA responded by determining that the third-party report provided by KLA was satisfactory and opted to not perform an investigation of their own.

KLA staff drafted a pasture lease for a member with a new tenant. Staff worked with the member to prepare a personalized lease that fit their needs and incorporated terms to address potential issues that may arise during the term of the lease.

A feedyard member called to ask about sales tax on several items they were preparing to purchase. Through the conversation, KLA staff realized the purchases were part of a larger construction project and suggested the member apply for a project exemption certificate. This sales tax exemption can apply to qualifying projects at feedyards, dairies and swine operations that exceed \$50,000 in total cost. KLA staff helped complete the application process and the entire project was finished without sales tax.

KLA received a call asking what fence laws apply to railroads with an active line running next to a member's property. Staff explained that railroads are responsible for constructing and maintaining a fence along the railway and drafted a letter requesting the railroad build a legal fence in accordance with Kansas law.

A KLA member called with questions about stray livestock when some neighboring cattle were found on their property. Staff advised the member of the appropriate process for taking up stray livestock under Kansas law, including the required notice that must be given to local law enforcement in order to recover damages and costs associated with the care and feeding of the stray cattle. ■