

PROTECTING YOUR INTERESTS



The spread of coronavirus and the world's response to it has created a great deal of uncertainty. To help maintain beef demand and supply chain continuity, the Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) and National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) have been actively engaged. Throughout the pandemic and beyond, KLA's goal always is to protect the interests of its over 5,700 members. This is done through member input and by adhering to member-driven policy. Below we have highlighted some of the action steps taken by KLA and NCBA over the past several months in response to the pandemic. For a complete list, visit www.kla.org/resources.

- In working with Gov. Laura Kelly's office and the Kansas Department of Agriculture, KLA was able to ensure agriculture was designated as critical infrastructure. This included livestock sales.
- KLA hosted a webinar for members about the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) to answer questions and clarify details about the program.
- KLA Chief Executive Officer Matt Teagarden sent a letter to USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue urging USDA to address the deficiencies in CFAP. The letter highlighted that prior to passage of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, KLA and NCBA had worked to ensure the legislation would provide maximum flexibility in meeting the needs of producers without creating a program based on actual marketings, which had the potential to set arbitrary timelines and skew marketing decisions.
- KLA President Harry Moser sent a letter on behalf of the association to USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue requesting an increase in the payment limit included in CFAP. Moser expressed KLA's extreme concern that the payment limit would only represent a small percentage of losses experienced by many livestock producers.
- KLA President Harry Moser sent a letter on behalf of the association to USDA Under Secretary Greg Ibach requesting the Packers and Stockyards Division of the Agricultural Marketing Service begin an investigation to determine if any violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act occurred following the first diagnosis of the coronavirus in the U.S.
- NCBA President Marty Smith sent a letter to President Donald Trump requesting the government act quickly to investigate the striking disparity between boxed beef prices and cattle prices in the futures and cash markets. Within six hours of receiving the letter, President Trump directed the Department of Justice to engage in an investigation.
- KLA sent a letter urging Kansas Department of Health and Environment Secretary Lee Norman, MD, to review and implement for agricultural workers the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) interim guidance for implementing safety practices for critical infrastructure workers who may have had exposure to coronavirus. The letter stated that KLA believes the CDC guidance "strikes the necessary balance between human health and continuity of critical infrastructure."
- KLA CEO Matt Teagarden provided frequent video updates to explain KLA's work on various issues during the coronavirus outbreak. He also outlined details of relief programs available to producers. KLA staff and officers were readily available to visit with members and other producers with questions on a variety of issues. KLA continues to provide timely information via the *KLA News & Market Report* newsletter, *Kansas Stockman* magazine, *KLA Today*, social media, radio programs, www.kla.org and other outlets to keep livestock producers informed.
- NCBA diligently worked to get agriculture eligible for Small Business Administration loans under the CARES Act. This allowed livestock producers to participate in the Paycheck Protection Program and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program. KLA informed its members of these benefits through its communications outlets and made the applications available on www.kla.org.
- Throughout the pandemic, the U.S. Department of Transportation, upon NCBA's request, has issued emergency declarations waiving hours-of-service regulations for drivers helping with the COVID-19 relief effort, including all livestock and feed haulers. KLA has made available the Expanded Emergency Declaration for truckers to print and carry with them in the event they are stopped by law enforcement.

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