General Election Information

I am not including any election information in this article. This article was written before the election, and you are likely reading it after the election.

The 2019 Kansas Legislative Session begins on Monday, January 19th. We know that there will be a minimum of 15 new legislators in the Kansas House. There is only one seat up for election this year in the Kansas Senate, but there could be some changes since there are some current state senators running for statewide office. The winners of the legislative races will meet in Topeka to organize and elect leadership on Monday, December 3.

Kansas Takes the Lead in Secure Food Supply Plans

The Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Animal Health (KDA–DAH) announced that Kansas now has more than one million head of cattle covered by Secure Beef Supply Plans, a significant step toward supporting the economic viability of the Kansas livestock industry in the event of a foreign animal disease outbreak.

KDA-DAH has been working with Kansas milk, beef and pork producers to develop Secure Food Supply Plans in conjunction with the national plans developed by the Center for Food Security and Public Health. Kansas was the first state in the nation to work with feedlots to implement individual biosecurity plans, and to date more than 118,000 head of dairy cows are covered under Secure Dairy Supply Plans and 1.24 million head of beef cattle are covered under a Secure Beef Supply Plans. In addition, 1.49 million head of pigs are covered under the Secure Pork Supply Plan.

The Secure Food Supply Plans are voluntary tools which help maintain business continuity for producers, transporters and food processors within the animal agriculture industry while protecting animal health during an animal disease event. The Secure Food Supply Plans involve development of protocols including biosecurity plans, self-assessment, training, and other elements that will demonstrate the ability of the business to prevent the potential spread of disease.

The impact of a foreign animal disease outbreak on the Kansas economy would be immense, and the

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A recent farming accident in our Kansas Dairy community has brought to light a subject that all farmers should think about every day while working at the job they love. It is no secret that farming is dangerous but when it hits close to us it is sure “eye opening”. Recently one of our own dairy families here in the state suffered a near loss of a family member due to a farming accident. He was gravely injured and as I write this, still struggles to survive. We pray and hope for a full recovery and think of him as he works towards going home to his family. A little over a year ago, longtime dairy farmer and former Executive Director of Kansas Dairy, Mike Bodenhausen lost his life in a farming accident. Sadly, all over the United States there are daily farming accidents and deaths reported. In 2017 there were 10 fatalities reported in Kansas. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health reported that there were over 400 farmers killed in 2016. These statistics do not include deaths of children under the age of 16. On average a child is killed in a farming accident every 3 days in our country. Statistics show that the majority of farming accidents are due to tractor and equipment usage. In short, Farming is the 2nd most dangerous occupation according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Please keep yourself and your families safe as you work at the occupation that you love. Check out the following links to get informed about Farm Safety.

www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/aginjury/default.html

Stephanie Eckroat

Scholarship: Kansas Dairy Commission Scholarships are due March 1st. Contact Stephanie for guidelines and application.

Apogee Animal Health, Inc. is a mobile veterinary practice and consulting service in northeast Kansas. We strive to couple the most current research and technologies with exceptional service to increase the health of our client's livestock and the profitability of their operations.

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In Vitro Frontiers specializes in assisted reproductive techniques and offers the following services to its clients: bovine in vitro fertilization, bovine embryo biopsy, and bovine embryo cryopreservation.

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On October 11, 2018 Midwest Dairy held a board meeting at Dairy Farmers of America Headquarters in Kansas City, Kansas. CEO Lucas Lentsch took time to ask the dairy farmers about their concerns. Many of the dairy farmers were concerned with the negativity for the dairy farmers, negativity on social media about dairy, the misinformation about hormones and antibiotics and U.S. demand growth compared to other countries’ demand growth (Canada). He took the time to address how Midwest Dairy could or how they are currently addressing these issues for the dairy community. Midwest has been concentrating on social media to help with changing the public’s perceptions of dairy farmers and dairy foods. Another positive avenue Midwest Dairy has been working on is the program called “Bringing Dairy to Life.” This project provides dairy information to those having dinner in different communities. They recently held one in Kansas City. These events focus on educating bloggers, foodies and social media personalities. It is also an opportunity to provide a platform for dairy farmers to have honest conversations about dairy with consumers. Midwest has had very good positive feedback from those that participated in the program.

The board meeting continued with updates from Midwest Dairy staff on how they are working on behalf of dairy farmers to promote sales and trust in dairy products. Some of these efforts include connecting dairy processors with food banks to provide milk at cost for the use in the food bank system and the “Dairy on the Air” podcast telling dairy farmers the impact of the checkoff. A new committee was also formed concentrating on consumer research. Ambassadors from the Fuel 60 program and the College Dairy ambassador program gave updates on how they are promoting trust and sales.

After the meeting, the board and guests toured Dairy Farmers of America headquarters.

The 2018 Kansas State Fair is in the books! We hope you had the chance to visit and enjoy some of the wonderful menu items that were available at the fair this year, especially those at the Kansas Dairy Bar! The Kansas Dairy Association has developed some great partnerships over the last few years and this year the Dairy Bar truly chaptalized on those relationships. This is the 3rd year that the Dairy Bar has sold Hildebrand soft serve to its customers. With a little brainstorming over the summer, Hildebrand’s and Kansas Dairy came up with a great idea to really jazz up the 2018 Dairy Bar. The Hildebrand processing facility developed 6 unique flavors that could be turned into delicious soft serve for the Dairy Bar customers; Mint Chocolate, Red Velvet, Salted Caramel, Orange Dreamsicle, Pumpkin Pie & Caramel Apple. These flavor options were turned into poll that was blasted out on the Hildebrand’s, Kansas Dairy and the Kansas State Fair Facebook pages. After votes were tallied, the winner was Salted Caramel! A quick test run at the Hildebrand Farm Store proved that the flavor would be a hit during the 2018 Kansas State Fair. The KDA and Hildebrand Farms plans to continue the tradition of featuring a “Flavor of the Fair” in the years to come. Be sure to continued on page 8
Secure Food Supply Plans Project is just one of the ways the Kansas Department of Agriculture works to prevent, mitigate and respond to potential incidents. These plans provide guidance for increased biosecurity measures at dairies, feedyards and hog operations across the state, which supplement the state’s foreign animal disease response plan. KDA annually conducts an emergency preparedness exercise involving hundreds of individuals in a multiday effort to test the state’s ability to respond to a foreign animal disease. This year’s exercise will take place Dec. 17–20, 2018.

Beef, dairy and pork producers and operations across Kansas are encouraged to participate in the voluntary Secure Food Supply Plan Project. To find out more about the project in Kansas, go to agriculture.ks.gov/kssecurefood or contact David Hogg, assistant emergency management coordinator, at David.Hogg@ks.gov or 785-564-7468.

Governor’s Agriculture Summit
The Kansas Department of Agriculture hosted the third annual Kansas Governor’s Summit on Agricultural Growth on August 23, 2018. This year’s Summit was the largest ever, with more than 500 people attending to talk about growing agriculture in Kansas. Participants ranged from farmers, ranchers, and agribusiness owners to policy-makers, city/county representatives, and leaders of agriculture organizations.

Governor Jeff Colyer addressed the full crowd as the Ag Growth Summit kicked off, and spoke of growth achievements that have been accomplished in Kansas agriculture. Secretary of Agriculture Jackie McClaskey thanked all who were in attendance and directed them to the morning events.

The morning was spent in workshop sessions to identify significant actions that will be taken next to move forward on the outcomes that have been identified for growth in the 19 sectors of Kansas agriculture.

Lunch featured comments from Ambassador Gregg Doud, the Chief Agricultural Negotiator in the office of the U.S. Trade Representative. Secretary McClaskey then shared major takeaways from each sector’s morning discussion.

The afternoon offered optional sessions to discuss trade, traceability, water and conservation, workforce development, broadband, industrial hemp and economic development.

A date has been set for the 2019 Kansas Ag Growth Summit: August 29, 2019. Mark your calendar now!

Rethinking the Traditional Farmer

The average age of the American farmer is nearly 60 years old, with almost half of those in production over 65 years old. In many cases, the next generation doesn’t have an interest in in taking over the farm, leaving a huge gap in the need for farmers. S.A.V.E the Farm is an organization that works with wounded and retired military service members to help bridge the gap in the need for new farmers. Many servicemembers are looking for a meaningful way to live life as they transition from the military and many express interests in agriculture. Servicemembers Agricultural Vocational Educations bridges the gap by providing a home-like training center where the servicemembers heal and learn about the culture of agriculturalism. Once a servicemember completes the training, they are matched with a mentor farmer with the potential to work on, manage or own a farm. The farm will also provide a healing center on site to focus on those that may need special treatment or therapy. The S.A.V.E training farm is located on 320 acres just ten miles Northwest of Manhattan, Kansas and adjacent to Fort Riley. The S.A.V.E. program is still in its early stages but eventually will include 2000+ acres of crop land, livestock, orchards, horticulture and bee production. You can find out more about the program and how you can help or participate at www.thesavefarm.org.
4-H’ers Participate in World Dairy Expo

Taylor Klipp, Hanover, Becky Kropf, Westphalia, and Simon Schmitz, Axtell represented Kansas 4-H at the National 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest October 1, 2018 during the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. The 4-Hers placed cows and heifers in 5 breeds (Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, and Jersey) and gave reasons on all five cow classes. The team finished 17th overall and was 4th in Ayrshires. Taylor Klipp received All-American recognition by placing as the 15th high individual. The team was coached by Audrey Schmitz.

Prior to the contest, team members travelled to Wisconsin and Illinois for practice sessions hosted by World Dairy Expo where they placed several classes of Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, Milking Shorthorn, and Red & White cattle. They also practiced at the Rokey, Rotthaus and Schmitz farms in late August. While at Expo they visited the National Dairy Shrine and were treated to tours of the Hoard’s Dairyman Farm and the Nasco warehouse and retail store.

The team would like to thank Kansas 4-H and the Kansas Dairy Association for sponsoring their trip, Audrey Schmitz for coaching them at the practice sessions, and the many farmers, parents, and extension staff who helped them prepare.

Sharing the Love of Dairy

From the kitchen of Evelyn Pauly

Almond Joy Cake

1 box of chocolate cake mix...I prefer German chocolate cake mix. Mix according to directions on package. Spray or grease & flour 2 9x12 pans. Divide batter in half and bake in the 2 prepared pans. Bake 20 minutes at 350 degrees. Cake will be about 1 inch thick.

While cake is baking, mix in pan: 1 cup evaporated milk and ¾ cup sugar and bring to rapid boil, remove from heat and add 24 large marshmallows. Stir until dissolved. Add 12–14 ounces of coconut. Pour this mixture over the 2 cakes. Spread evenly.

In another pan mix:
1 cup sugar
½ cup evaporated milk
1 stick of butter.

Heat to a rapid boil, remove from heat. Add 1½ cups of chocolate chips. Stir until melted. Add 1 cup of chopped almonds or 1 cup of chopped pecans and stir. Drizzle mixture over the coconut mixture on cake. I usually use a spatula or fork to spread evenly on cake. This cake freezes well.

This delicious recipe was submitted by Aaron Pauly, dairyman from Viola, Kansas. The Pauly family currently is milking 200 cows and also produces wheat, corn, soybeans, milo and hay. Congratulations to the Pauly family as their 4th generation farm recently reached its 100 year anniversary in 2018.
Reminder from Homeland Security

The Department of Homeland Security identifies and regulates high-risk chemical facilities through the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program. The CFATS program prevents the misuse of certain Chemicals of Interest (COI) at America’s high-risk chemical facilities for use in a terrorist act on the homeland through the systematic regulation, inspection, and enforcement of chemical infrastructure security requirements.

Any facility (including dairy producers) which has a chemical listed in Appendix A, at or above screening threshold quantity, must report it to DHS. There are over 300 chemicals in Appendix A, which can be viewed at https://www.dhs.gov/publication/cfats-coi-list. Note that Anhydrous Ammonia, Aqua Ammonia, Chlorine, Hydrogen Peroxide, Nitric Acid, Propane, Peracetic Acid, Potassium Permanganate, Sodium Nitrate, Propylene, and Anhydrous Sulfur Dioxide are CFATS chemicals of interest listed in Appendix A (see Appendix A for threshold quantities and concentrations for each).

For additional information on CFATS, please visit https://www.dhs.gov/chemical-facility-anti-terrorism-standards. Questions about the program can be addressed to cfats@hq.dhs.gov.

Great Partnerships = Great Results, cont.

follow Kansas Dairy on Facebook so that you can help decide the 2019 flavor. In addition to great soft serve options, customers were also treated to a new variety of cheese curds courtesy of Alma Creamery. In years past customers could enjoy both yellow and white cheddar as well as delicious pepper jack. This fall, Alma Creamery rolled out a new line of unique flavors just in time for the 2018 Kansas State Fair. New flavors included: Dill, Garlic, Buffalo Wing & Mediterranean Herb. The new flavors were a big hit and we look forward to offering them again next year. The Dairy Bar also served a State Fair favorite, K-State Call Hall Purple Pride. Kansas Dairy also has developed a great partnership with Highland Dairy Foods to exclusively provide the bulk of the ice cream and milk that was served to the public during the 10-day event. The Dairy Bar offers a great opportunity to showcase delicious dairy products that are produced and marketed by Kansas Dairy Farmers.

Classifieds

FOR SALE: Service age Holstein bulls for sale from our top cows and bred for excellent udders and good production. RHA over 30,000 lbs. Bob Seiler 316-796-0173 or 316-644-2238.

FOR SALE: Holstein Bulls DHIA production records and classification. From top cows and AI sires. Call 785-336-2681 or 785-336-1543.


FOR SALE: Registered and Commercial Holstein bulls. For sale by the pound or by the pedigree. Semen tested, delivered and guaranteed. Call for free brochure. Call Steve @ Strickler Holsteins 620-365-9233.


Classified space is free to Kansas Dairy Association members! Please submit classified items also to director. ksdairy@gmail.com.
The Kansas Dairy Commission hosted a Dairy Delights Reception and educational presentation at the Kansas State Fair on Saturday Sept 8, 2018. The event, held at the State Fair Milking Parlor, was targeted to help Legislative candidates have a better understanding of the Kansas Dairy industry. Vice President of the Kansas Dairy Commission, Bob Seiler, gave opening comments at the beginning of the program. He introduced Senator Dan Kerschen, former dairymen and current Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Senator Kerschen spoke about the economic impact of dairy farming in Kansas. He also educated the elect candidates on the current poor market for dairy products in the United States and the frustrations with international trade. His information was well received and was sympathetic to the current state of dairy in Kansas. He fielded a few questions before the main program stated. Callie Toews, Southwest Dairy Museum was an important part of the event as well. She gave an in-depth description of how dairy farming works from cow to jug. Callie talked about how dairy farmers are advocates for responsible animal agriculture and good stewards of the land. Callie presented a “real life” milking demonstration and answered questions from the group. Several dairymen and their families from the area attended and sat among the Legislative candidates. There were many good conversations between the dairymen and candidates after the demonstration. Jill and Maggie Seiler provided a calf for a photo opportunity for all the candidates. The Kansas Dairy Commission and Association Board of Directors served ice cream to all who attended.
The regional FFA dairy judging was again hosted by Rokeyroad Holsteins, Sabetha, KS. This event includes students from the surrounding schools that are learning to judge the amazing dairy animal!

As usual, the preparation is quite a bit of work for the farm crew. We try to have the barn as clean and tidy as possible for a working dairy! Then, we try to have the animals as clean as possible and at least the udders trimmed on the milking cow classes. The morning of the event, the crew, including some of the kids from Sabetha High School FFA chapter and their advisor, get the five classes of animals all arranged in their respective spots on the farm. This can take some time and much organization, because by 8:30 a.m., some of the buses start to arrive on the farm with kids ready to learn and compete for the top dairy judge. By 9 a.m., the kids are ready to listen to the advisor which different cow and heifer classes they will be judging and doing reasons on. Also, several volunteers show up by then to help take reasons from the students.

At around eleven, a fellow dairy farmer and amazing cook, Roy Buessing, shows up with a van load of food for several hundred hungry teenagers and advisors, along with volunteers. The Rokeyroad crew is also ready to chow after several days of clean up and organizing! Roy has kindly provided a wonderful meal for the dairy judging every year since we have hosted, and it is very much appreciated!

After lunch, the kids finish up the reasons, and also just walk around and explore all the things a dairy has to offer. Dwight is available to share things about the farm, dairy life, and just to answer any questions that are asked. It truly is a great way to let students learn and see the day to day happenings on a working dairy! Our hope is that they can take it back to the classroom and share with all their peers how awesome dairy cattle are, and that truly the many things you can buy with milk, just got a whole lot better!

Ice cream was served, thanks to the Kansas Dairy Commission. The flavors enjoyed were chocolate chip cookie dough and vanilla. We learned that next time, we definitely need more cookie dough and less vanilla! I will close, and we’ll see if we are asked to host again next year, but for now, on with getting the cows milked.

In closing, we know the day was, at least for most, very educational. The thank-you cards we receive are a confirmation of that!
Not a producer? Become an Associate Member

Non-producers and businesses may join the Kansas Dairy Association as associate members to help strengthen our activities in the state and provide input to this dynamic and growing industry. Associate membership dues help the Kansas Dairy Association provide a unified voice for all Kansas dairy producers.

Membership in the Kansas Dairy Association entitles you to a subscription to the Dairy Dispatch, the official newspaper of the Kansas Dairy Association, as well as other special membership mailings and activities. You will also be invited to attend the Kansas Dairy Association Annual Meeting which is held during December or January of each year, and the Kansas Dairy Association’s annual Legislative Reception.

All Kansas dairy producers who participate in the statewide voluntary assessment to the Kansas Dairy Commission are automatically members of the Kansas Dairy Association.

Thank you to these businesses for their support as current associate members. Become an associate member by contacting Stephanie Eckroat at director.ksdairy@gmail.com.

The calendar space is for any dairy related activity or event, please submit your event, dates, time and location to director.ksdairy@gmail.com.

Not a producer? Become an Associate Member

Advertise in the Dispatch

The goal of The Dairy Dispatch is to communicate regularly with dairy producers in the state of Kansas, informing them about the activities of the Kansas Dairy Association and Kansas Dairy Commission and other industry news.

Please consider advertising in The Dairy Dispatch. An advertisement helps us cover publishing costs of the newsletter and allows you to promote your business or farm in a newsletter with a circulation of over 300 dairy producers and friends of the industry across the state.

Advertisement sizes can range from a business card to a full page ad. You can supply your already designed ad or contract Kansas Dairy to design one for you. Contact Stephanie Eckroat, director.ksdairy@gmail.com, for an advertising packet. We look forward to working with you!

Calendar

Dairy Days
February 5, 2019
Whiteside, Kansas

Dairy Days
February 7, 2019
Seneca, Kansas

Women Managing the Farm Conference
February 6-8, 2019
Manhattan, Kansas
Midwest Dairy Seeking Applicants for Ambassador Program

College students with an interest in dairy can now apply to be a dairy ambassador in one of eight states across the Midwest. The Dairy Ambassador program provides students with leadership opportunities to connect with consumers and share their dairy story while networking with their peers and industry professionals. Programs are available in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota.

To be considered, applicants must be enrolled in a post-secondary school, communicate effectively through writing and speaking and possess a passion for dairy. Applicants do not have to be majoring in agriculture.

Ambassadors are expected to serve a one-year term, starting January 1, 2019 and ending December 31, 2019. Ambassadors participate in a variety of activities which may include interaction with consumers at county and state fairs, school presentations and attendance at dairy industry meetings. Each ambassador will receive a $1,000 scholarship at the end of their term.

The Dairy Ambassador program is a coordinated effort between Midwest Dairy and various colleges and state extension programs within the eight states where programs are available. The program began in Nebraska five years ago and has since grown to include multiple states. It is effective in shaping future dairy champions to promote the dairy community and supports Midwest Dairy’s mission to give consumers an excellent dairy experience.

Students can apply at MidwestDairy.com, in the For Farmers section, under Ambassadors. Applications are due December 1, 2018. Selected ambassadors will be notified before January 1, 2019.

If you have questions, please contact Theresa Reps at treps@midwestdairy.com or 651-383-3737.