



the Dairy Dispatch

*A publication devoted to supporting the Kansas
Dairy Industry and farmers*

Legislative Update

The 2020 Kansas Legislature adjourned for its spring break more than two weeks before it was officially scheduled. The threat posed by COVID-19 led to the legislature preparing an initial budget and giving approval to some high priority issues earlier than planned. The last two weeks have been a rush to complete those priorities and break.

The Legislature traditionally returns for its Veto Session after taking a break in April. This year, that session is not guaranteed. The Legislature approved the Adjournment Resolution that set April 27 as the date for returning, although the Legislative Coordinating Council has the flexibility to call the Legislature back earlier or later depending on conditions. The resolution set the end of the session on May 21, and if legislators do not come back into session this year, that date will not be able to be changed. The Legislature is leaving behind a significant amount of unfinished work. Issues including the constitutional amendment on abortion and Medicaid expansion, sports wagering and taxes, plus many others. The Governor, in working to contain the potential impact of COVID-19, has issued five Executive Orders to date. The Executive Orders are all available on her website, the first of which declared the state of emergency, to the most publicized order, the closure of school buildings for the rest of the current school year.

Budget Approved

Concerns about the effects of the coronavirus had a big impact on the make up of the budget for this fiscal year and the next. There are serious concerns that the economic impact will cause a sharp drop in tax revenues and more budget adjustments might take place down the road. This budget does add \$50 million for coronavirus response for various state agencies. It also adds \$15 million for the Kansas Division of Emergency Management for coronavirus response. A number of items have been put off until legislators come back from their April break. State employee pay raises being one of the biggest budget items that has been put off. KU Med Center funding, STAR Bond extension proviso and a proviso increasing the cap on newborn screening expenditures were included in the budget bill. Legislators will know more after the April 15 tax deadline, and the group that makes economic forecasts for State government also meets in April. Once those tax and forecast numbers are known, the Governor and the Legislature will set their budget priorities and try to work out the changes to be made, that should happen in May.

News from the Executive Director

Just to clear things up.....

I have also consumed raw milk, like many of you!

In March the Kansas Dairy Association introduced Bill #300 in the Senate to ban the sale of Raw Milk. Over the last month or so, I have received calls and emails from those that are supporting and questioning the actions of the Kansas Dairy Association on the issue of raw milk. This communication has come from all walks of life, producers, consumers, educators & social media "experts" as well. There have been proponents, opponents, education seekers, people's rights advocates and many more. Believe me this was an emotional issue for several of the Kansas Dairy Association Board members too. We have all consumed and enjoyed, heck some of you have literally "grown up on raw milk". There is no easy way to put it, this is not the "good ol' days" anymore. The consuming public is 3-5 times removed from the farm. Recently I did a quick pole in one of the classrooms that I teach Agriculture Education; out of 75 children, only 3 lived directly on a working farm, either crop or animal. Of the 75, only 12 students had grandparents actively farming or ranching, including the 3 previously mentioned. This is in my home county in rural Western Kansas. This should speak volumes about "who" is buying agriculture products and "who" could be affected by the pathogens that potentially lurk in raw milk. Consumers today, simply do not have the exposure to the environment the typical farm family does. Their kids don't play in the dirt anymore! The Kansas Dairy Association took a harsh official stance to push for more regulation on the sale of unpasteurized milk. In the past, raw milk sales were allowed as long as the only form of advertisement was a sign on the farm or word of mouth thus keeping the sale more local and somewhat restricted. Last fall, it was determined that this restriction was unconstitutional. Raw milk producers now can advertise at will resulting in a larger consumer market. Please understand that raw milk producers are not regulated in any way, hence they are selling a product that can directly relate back to what you are selling. Your facility, your business and livelihood are being inspected, you are doing all the right things to keep the consumer safe, you are paying the price for all these services and requirements. Who is going to pay the price should an outbreak occur....? The Kansas Department of Agriculture also introduced a bill, SB #308, in response to last fall's litigation.

The following link will provide both bills for review:

http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2019_20/committees/ctte_h_agriculture_1/

SB # 300 did not pass out of Committee, but SB #308 did pass out with amendments.

Stephanie Eckroat- Executive Director

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The legislature approved expenditures of \$19.9 billion, including \$8.0 billion from the State General Fund. The recommendation is an all fund increase of \$127.7 million, or 0.6 percent, and a State General Fund increase of \$165.5 million, or 2.1 percent, above the FY 2021 Governor's recommendation.

Transportation Plan

The legislature approved a bill that would authorize and direct the Secretary of Transportation to initiate a program to be called the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program. The bill would specify the types of projects authorized and require at least \$8 million to be spent in each county through FY 2030. The bill requires the plan to provide for the construction, improvement, reconstruction, and maintenance of the state highway system and provide for selection of projects that will allow for the flexibility to meet emerging and economic needs. The bill would require the Secretary to establish targets for state highway system condition that reflect reasonable, realistic expectations to determine the annual preservation investment needed to achieve those goals and long-term cost effectiveness. The plan includes safety or technology elements can be added in a preservation plus project. The bill would state such elements may include, adding paved shoulders, passing lanes, traffic signals, or intelligent transportation system elements or laying broadband fiber or the conduit for broadband fiber. The plan also would authorize expansion and economic opportunity projects, or that improve access, relieve congestion, and enhance economic development opportunities. The bill would require the plan to provide for the completion of modernization and expansion projects selected for construction under the Transportation Works for Kansas Program (T-Works) and that those projects be let prior to July 1, 2023. The bill would require the Secretary to bid construction contracts at least one phase of each remaining T-Works project before any modernization or expansion project, or both, under the new plan is let to construction.

Healthcare

The legislature approved HB 2168 would set a sunset provision for the Nursing Facility Quality Care Assessment of July 1, 2030, and would amend law concerning the hospital provider assessment known as the Healthcare Access Improvement Program (HCAIP). The annual hospital provider assessment rate would increase from 1.83 percent to 3.0 percent. The bill would require all disbursements related to HCAIP be paid from moneys appropriated to the Healthcare Access Improvement Fund (Fund) and would further provide no State General Fund appropriations be used to supplement the Fund. On July 1 of each year, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), with the approval of the Panel, would adjust the disbursement process to ensure the amount of disbursements do not exceed the amount of funds appropriated to the Fund.



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Emergency Bills Addressing COVID-19

Senate Bill 27:

House Substitute for Senate Bill 27 extends unemployment eligibility for workers who started to file unemployment insurance claims on or after January 1, 2020. These workers would be eligible for a maximum of 26 weeks of benefits, instead of the current effective maximum of 16 weeks. The Governor signed this into law.

Senate Bill 102:

House Substitute for Senate Bill 102 expands authority of the judicial branch in time of disaster, permitting the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to issue an order extending statutory deadlines or time limitations on court proceedings and authorizes video conferencing.

Senate Bill 142:

House Substitute for Senate Bill 142 expands education waiver authority during disaster emergencies. Under current law, students are required by statute to attend at least 1,116 school hours per school year. This bill allows local school boards to receive waivers for this requirement under a state of disaster declaration, with the understanding that they will utilize continuous learning for their students during this time. Additionally, the bill codifies legislative intent that school districts continue to pay all hourly employees during a disaster shutdown.

Orange Julius Recipe

Ingredients

8oz frozen orange juice concentrate

1 cup heavy cream

1/4 cup powdered sugar

1-2 tsp vanilla

1 cup ice cubes

Combine all ingredients in the blender.

Blend until smooth and serve immediately.

ENJOY!

4 Kansas Dairy



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KSU Dairy Judging Team Update

By: Billy Brown

The 2019 KSU Dairy Cattle Judging Team had a successful year, competing at contests in Oklahoma, Texas, and Wisconsin, including at World Dairy Expo. We are proud of how they represented our university and hope you will join us in congratulating them. Our success would not be possible without the generosity of numerous Kansas dairies who hosted us for practices last fall. Highlights of the year included:

Team

3rd Place – Southern National Contest, Oklahoma

Individuals

Trevor Gyhra – High Individual – Southwest Intercollegiate Contest, Texas

Malorie Depenbusch – 2nd Place Holsteins – Southwest Intercollegiate Contest

The 2020 season hit a road bump with the Covid-19 crisis cancelling our spring contests. Nonetheless, we are thrilled to have 11 talented students enrolled in our spring dairy judging class. The class uses linear scoring as a method for teaching visual differences between conformation traits before advancing to traditional cattle judging scenarios. Students had the privilege of visiting with Ryan Bodenhausen of Select Sires about applications of linear scoring in type classifications and mating decisions, highlighting the real-world application for evaluating dairy cattle. This group stepped up to the challenge of finishing the semester virtually and are setting themselves up well for success in the fall. For regular updates on the team, follow us on Facebook – Kansas State University Dairy Judging Team



2019 KSU

Dairy Cattle Judging Team (l-r). Malorie Depenbusch (Udall, KS), Trevor Gyrha (Pawnee City, NE), Emily Kamler (Sullivan, MO), Billy Brown (coach), and Colton Buessing (not pictured).

Fort Hays State University Students Visit Kansas Dairy Farms

The Dairy Science class from Fort Hays State University led by Dr. Brittany Howell, recently took advantage of the spring weather to head out to visit several working dairies across the state. The tours were in early March, with the 1st visit taking place at dairies in Reno County. Dairy farms that hosted in that area were: Miller, Bontrager and Beachy. The following week the students were able to visit several Western Kansas Dairies, including Forget-Me-Not, Moscow and Nobel. They also stopped and toured the Circle Heifer Development Ranch in Garden City. There was a total of 24 students that took advantage of the dairy tours. Dr. Howell has been conducting dairy tours for her Dairy Science class for 22 years. She states that it is important for Animal Science student to be exposed to the dairy industry by “getting their feet on a real dairy farm”. The Dairy Production course is just one of the options for those seeking an Animal Science Degree from Fort Hays State University. Pictured below is 1st day of tours at the Bontrager Farm.



Food Concerns Amid Pandemic

There have been some concerns about food sources among our general population during this time due to the fears of the current pandemic Covid-19. These concerns have resulted in hoarding of food and supplies, inadvertently lending hand to food insecurity and anxiety among our population in the United States. Please review information at:

<https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus>

to answer questions about food supplies in the United States.

ENGAGE- The Power of Shared Values

Add Midwest Dairy Association recently held a training seminar focused on consumer trust and communication. The training was held on February 25th & 26th in Kansas City Missouri. The workshop centered on building relationships with people and learning how to tell the story of dairy in a meaningful way. Attendees were represented from various sectors of the dairy industry, not necessarily focusing on the traditional dairymen alone. Participants represented have active roles in Agriculture and the dairy industry in both Kansas and Missouri. The training began with a tour of Arrowhead Stadium on the afternoon of 25th. The tour was led by former dairyman, Kenny Marrs, currently now serving as a Red Coaters volunteer for the Chiefs organization. The following morning seminar attendees addressed the “nightmare question” that they frequently deal with or one of which they dread to hear coming from consumers. The day focused on how to address those questions effectively rather than “educating” consumers. Stacy Dohle, Samantha Carter and Ron Gruesenmeyer led the team from Midwest during the training session, they encourage building trusting relationships with those that have questions and concerns about agriculture. The seminar was interactive, allowing attendees to practice the strategies they had learned throughout the day. They learned that having meaningful conversations with consumers was a great way to help with misconceptions concerning animal agriculture. For more information about Midwest Dairy and the programs they offer please visit their website: Midwestdairy.com



Covid- 19 virus insights for dairy:
midwestdairy.com

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SOUTHWEST DAIRY MUSEUM, INC. SEEKS MOBILE CLASSROOM INSTRUCTOR

The Southwest Dairy Museum, Inc. presently has an opening for a Mobile Dairy Classroom Instructor in the State of Kansas based in the northeastern or central Kansas area. Candidates for this position must meet the following qualifications:

- Be able to work independently & Be a self-starter
- Possess the basic knowledge of dairy cows and the physical ability to handle dairy cows and the mobile dairy classroom unit
- Ability to speak effectively in public - often to large groups comprised of elementary school students and their teachers
- Enjoy working with and be able to communicate and interact effectively with elementary school children, as well as the public.
- A safe driving record and the ability to handle (or learn to handle) a large goose neck trailer with a live animal

This position prefers an agricultural related college education, but it is not a requirement. Knowledge of the computer and basic software usage is necessary. The work schedule is based on a 40-hour work week. However, the Instructor will be required to work a varied work schedule, including some weekends and holidays and, at times, starting very early and/or working into the evening. The position requires extensive travel within the state of Kansas with occasional overnight stays. No tobacco use is allowed during business hours, as many of our venues are tobacco free. **If interested, please send a cover letter and resume with references on or before March 27, 2020 to:**

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The Southwest Dairy Farmers Will Tell Your Children A Different Story.

Our Mobile Dairy Classrooms are dairy farms on wheels, and a great way for kids to learn about dairy and dairy farming.

The Mobile Dairy Classrooms are part of a dynamic educational program sponsored by the Southwest Dairy Museum, Inc. The 32-foot classrooms feature a fully operational milking parlor. Each classroom carries a live cow to schools, fairs, and festivals throughout the Southwest. The Mobile Dairy Classroom presentations are enjoyed by all ages. The material included in our presentations is targeted toward first through sixth grade students; however, our instructors are

trained to easily adapt and enhance the programs to appeal to secondary level students. Instructors can teach 100-200 children per presentation and can give up to five demonstrations a day. The Mobile Dairy Classroom is literally an educational exhibit on wheels. Trained instructors demonstrate how to milk a cow, describe how milk goes from the farm to the kitchen table, and how milk benefits the human body. There is no charge for the Mobile Dairy Classroom program.

Request a visit at southwestdairyfarmers.com.
Or call (903) 439-MILK (6455)



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New Online Dairy COVID-19 Information Resources

NMPF- continue to update their website resource page <https://www.nmpf.org/coronavirus/>

offering a collection of helpful farmer-focused guidance documents, a COVID-19 FAQ, and latest news. This includes materials from the Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Small Business Administration and others that will help agricultural employers navigate complex workforce matters. New items this week include: What Farmers Need to Know About Sick Leave Requirements; Recommended Protocols When a Dairy Farm Employee Tests Positive for COVID-19; and Temporary Guidance for Veterinarians & Producers about Telemedicine and the VCPR.



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