

2020 RESOLUTIONS KANSAS CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

PREAMBLE

The KANSAS CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION (KCGA) is committed to promoting and improving the profitability and sustainability of Kansas Corn farmers, by developing and maintaining domestic and international markets to utilize Kansas and United States corn production. While its concerns, interests and programs encompass many issues, KCGA is dedicated to focusing attention and resources on the areas that most vitally affect production, marketing, research, education, and expanded domestic and international trade. The combined effects of these efforts are essential in achieving increased profitability of Kansas corn production. Notwithstanding any other goals, the KCGA recommends and adopts the following General Resolutions:

ETHANOL

We support full implementation of RFS2 as passed by Congress.

We support the efforts of the NCGA to work with stakeholders in the ethanol industry to defend the RFS.

We support the increased availability of all ethanol blended fuels.

We support the implementation and availability of E-15 fuel to provide fueling choices for consumers.

We support efforts of the ethanol industry to self-promote their product if they do so in a unified manner.

We support efforts of NCGA, Growth Energy, the American Coalition for Ethanol, and the Renewable Fuels Association to reverse California Air Resources Board (CARB) policies that negatively impact US ethanol expansion.

We oppose regulatory barriers to the implementation of higher ethanol blends in fuel.

ENERGY

We support the formation of non-profit entities pursuant to the self-help act to supply a reliable source of natural gas for irrigation.

We support that irrigators should have fair access to energy and energy markets.

We support the continued availability of wellhead gas for irrigation and residential use unless the continued supply of such would be in violation of scientifically based state laws.

We support that suppliers of natural gas should make every effort to maintain adequate gas line pressure for irrigation use.

We support an “all-of-the-above” approach to provide economical and viable energy sources.

TRANSPORTATION

We support the efficient movement of agricultural commodities to market, including permits allowing for a 90,000 pound weigh limit.

We support maintaining the current licensing rules and regulations for farm vehicles and farm owner and employee operators. We encourage that information needed by regulating agencies for licensing be handled efficiently.

We support that bridge and road infrastructure be a priority in Kansas, using federal infrastructure funds to maintain and improve county and state roads and bridges.

WATER

We support voluntary water conservation and retirement efforts.

We support efforts to protect agricultural water use.

We support the current policy of allowing local landowners and water users to organize and manage regional groundwater supplies per the Kansas Groundwater Management District Act.

We support that water conservation efforts, when needed, should be led by landowners and other water users. We support these efforts must comply with current Kansas water policy.

We oppose state wide restrictions on the use of water for irrigation in Kansas.

We support the enforcement of water regulations.

We support changes to Kansas water law that allow flexibility in the use of water allocations, remove existing negative consequences for growers who conserve water, and allow more local control and provide local stakeholders the ability to develop and implement conservation efforts.

We support that representation the state’s Regional Advisory Committees for water and any other state water advisory boards and committees should, to the maximum extent possible, reflect not only an equitable geographic distribution, but a representative distribution of the water uses made within the region as well. We also support and encourage all water advisory boards and committees in Kansas to maintain a full complement of appointed members at all times.

We support the use of EQIP appropriations and other applicable funding sources within the 2018 farm bill for the stated goal of improving irrigation system efficiencies that will reduce water use; mitigate the effects of drought; and convert to dryland farming. In the conversion of irrigated land to dryland farming, we encourage NRCS to consider an economically viable incentive payment to set aside water rights and further support that these incentives be provided specifically to areas with documented groundwater depletion problems. We further support that producers should not be assessed liquidated damages when unknown participation requirements make enrollment unfeasible to the producer.

We support that the use of Intensive Groundwater Use Control Areas (IGUCA) should not replace long standing Kansas water policy and that such use, when necessary, should be subject to review and sunset provisions.

We support changes in the definition of the Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) that are beneficial to agriculture. We support the State of Kansas' authority in permitting farm ponds and statutory exclusion of ephemeral streams as jurisdictional waters under the Clean Water Act in Kansas' surface water quality standards.

We support the use of implementation of stream augmentation in any remedy developed by Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Water resources and GMD#5 to the impairment proceedings regarding surface flow of Rattlesnake Creek to satisfy the determined water use needs of Quivira National Wildlife Refuge—U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

We oppose any additional user fees for water use by agriculture.

We support efforts to adjust the salary of the Chief Engineer within the Kansas Department of Agriculture to be competitive with Chief Engineers in other states.

IMMIGRATION

We support reasonable federal immigration reform that provides a needed legal workforce for agriculture.

STATE POLICY AND REGULATION

We support that planting decisions should remain in the hands of growers; further, we oppose the development of policy or regulation that would discourage planting of one crop in favor of another.

GRAIN STORAGE

We support financial incentives for the expansion of grain storage in Kansas.

We support existing on-farm storage facility exemptions from OSHA inspection and regulatory requirements.

We further support that farmer-owned on-farm storage should not be classified as commercial use.

CORN-BASED BIOPRODUCTS

We support further research and commercialization of bio-based products made from corn.

WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

We support the right of the State of Kansas to determine water quality standards for Kansas. We oppose any effort of the U.S. EPA to promulgate water quality standards for Kansas. We further encourage the State of Kansas to defend states' rights issues to the full extent of judicial process.

EDUCATION and RESEARCH

We support that proper research and monitoring are essential prior to the establishment of Pesticide Management Districts or targeted pesticide use reduction in Kansas.

We support increased emphasis on agricultural education in our schools and recognize the need to integrate agricultural education into existing curriculum.

We support Kansas Corn Commission investment in commercialization of products based on commission funded research.

We support efforts to ensure that consumers have accurate information when purchasing agricultural products. We oppose product labeling not scientifically based or meant to mislead consumers.

BIOTECHNOLOGY

We support the development of new corn hybrids by use of biotechnology including gene editing and conventional breeding that offer benefits to producers and/or consumers and that have full approval from all relevant regulatory agencies and major international markets. Any hybrid with limited approval should only be marketed with a fully funded identity preserved closed handling system.

We support federal pre-emption of state and local units of government in the area of food labeling related to inclusion of genetically modified organisms in food product manufacturing.

We support voluntary GMO food labeling based on federal rules and regulations. We do not support state-based GMO labeling requirements.

TAXATION

We support the establishment of a income tax credit for eligible producers who invest in value added grain processing facilities in Kansas.

We support a reduction in capital gains taxation.

We support income averaging for farmers including family owned farm corporation.

We support that exemptions to the taxation of estates be indexed for inflation as well as supporting continuation of the allowance of a step-up in asset basis for heirs when assets are transferred within estates and trusts.

We support the current method of agricultural property taxation and classification in Kansas.

We support the continued sales tax exemption of agricultural production related items and services.

We support that land taken out of private ownership for "conservation" reasons should not place additional tax burdens on remaining land.

We oppose efforts to shift taxation to property tax.

WATER QUALITY INITIATIVES & TMDLs

We support research and voluntary outreach programs that are designed to help producers implement Best Management Practices. We further support current efforts to implement TMDLs in Kansas with education and voluntary Best Management Practices as the cornerstone.

COMMODITY GROUP COOPERATION

We support and encourage greater communication and cooperation between all commodity groups at the state and national level. We further support that these groups should work together to present a united voice for agriculture.

COMMODITY CORN SUPPORT

We support that efforts to promote value added agriculture should not come at the expense of those that produce the commodity.

WETLANDS

We support a rational policy in determining wetlands that allow for a balance between economical agricultural production and wetland conservation.

COMMODITY CHECK-OFF PROGRAMS

We support the Kansas Corn Commission and encourage said commission to continue to work with Kansas corn producers to provide expanded research, marketing, educational, and promotional opportunities.

We support the current mission of the Kansas commodity commissions. In addition, we oppose any attempts to create multiple state checkoff programs on the same commodity in Kansas.

We support the current method of commissioner selection, requiring all commissioners to be corn producers, for the Kansas Corn Commission.

We support the establishment of corn checkoff programs in states where such programs do not currently exist. We encourage all programs to seek a similar level of assessment in order to establish uniformity in corn check-off programs nationwide.

We oppose any attempts to assess fees on commodity checkoffs that are not based on actual services provided.

PESTICIDES / FERTILIZERS / FUEL

We support that Kansas corn producers need the continued availability of herbicides, insecticides, and fertilizers in order to continue to provide our nation and world with a safe and abundant food supply. We further encourage that whenever discussion takes place that concerns the future availability of such products, that KCGA be involved in such discussion, as an advocate for Kansas corn producers.

We support reasonable farmer exemptions for pesticide containment, fertilizer containment, fuel containment, and fuel supplier delivery when the presence of such products and activities are incidental to application or use by the farmer in possession of the product.

We support federal and state pre-emption of local units of government in the area of pesticide and livestock regulation.

We support that the State of Kansas should offer collection of agricultural chemical wastes in Kansas. We further support that participating producers should be granted amnesty when participating in said program.

We support the agricultural site remediation program in Kansas. We further support that a broad base of funding be continued, however that no funds derived from the state fertilizer fee fund be used.

PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

We oppose any government action that would infringe upon private property rights without adequate compensation, including rights of usage relative to irrigation, the Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act.

BEGINNING FARMER LOAN PROGRAM

We support the continuation of the Federal Beginning Farmer Loan Program and Farmer Mac Program. Where possible, the programs should be strengthened to provide greater opportunities for Kansans wishing to enter the farming profession.

CROP INSURANCE

We support that Federal Crop Insurance coverage be offered with an increased level of government financial participation for increased levels of coverage.

We support that actual insured county average yield should be used as the average yield rather than historical FSA county yields.

We support the establishment of yields on new crops be based on past history of proven yields of previously grown crops.

We support the development of new crop insurance products for corn growers implementing limited water use irrigation practices and for corn growers facing several years of crop losses that cannot be adequately covered by current crop insurance products.

We support that if a county is declared as a disaster, then the Risk Management Agency would use full T-Yields or the farmer's actual production history (APH), whichever is higher.

We oppose any change in dryland crop insurance availability that does not provide for proper accounting of best practices such as no-till and other conservation tillage or new corn traits that provide drought resistance or tolerance.

We encourage better cooperation and communication between FSA and RMA to simplify recordkeeping.

We support strengthening the Federal Crop Insurance program.

We support the current delivery method for crop insurance.

FARM BILL

We oppose any reductions in payment limitations.

We oppose the elimination of crop fields of less than ten acres in federal farm program implementation.

We support the use of reasonable, timely and accurate information and calculations for determining farm program payments. We support state FSA committees and directors having the authority to correct county to county yield discrepancies.

We support the current Farm Bill's revenue-based approach to a safety net including the ARC and PLC programs. We believe county to county yield discrepancies creating significant payment differences in any given year must be corrected, in part by providing state FSA committee discretion to correct data shortfalls.

If a county doesn't have sufficient NASS yield information, the state FSA committee should have the flexibility to utilize yields from adjoining counties to calculate ARC payments.

We support that NASS should modernize and simplify the system utilized to collect data from farmers.

We support keeping the option to update base acres in the farm bill like it is today.

POSTED COUNTY PRICES

We support that the Posted County Price should reflect the actual county cash price.

SUSTAINABILITY

We support sustainable farming practices. We further support that profitability should be recognized as a key component of sustainability.

MACHINERY TECHNOLOGY

We support agricultural producers' right to require equipment and machinery manufacturers to provide owners and independent repair businesses with fair access to service information, security updates and replacement parts.

HEALTHCARE

We support efforts to create more affordable health insurance plans for Kansans.

NCGA RESOLUTIONS

We support the National Corn Growers Association Resolutions for the current year. Where applicable, said resolutions shall also be considered resolutions of KCGA.

KCGA BOARD of DIRECTORS

We support the right of the KCGA Board of Directors to make additions or other adjustments as necessary to KCGA resolutions. All changes shall clearly be in the best interest of KCGA and its members. Any changes shall be reported to the membership in a timely manner and such changes shall be reviewed by the full membership at the next annual meeting.