

**House Agriculture Committee
Testimony on SB 414**

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Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, I am Tim Stroda. I represent the members of the Kansas Pork Association.

For those who may not be familiar with our industry, swine operations utilize very strict biosecurity measures to ensure the health of the pigs. On most farms, personnel are required to shower and change clothes before they are allowed inside the buildings.

Even with strict controls, swine herds are susceptible to diseases which can be spread through the air or be carried by a host such as flies or rodents. Feral swine are carriers of many diseases which can be very detrimental to the pork industry.

A short list of these includes pseudorabies, swine brucellosis, porcine reproduction and respiratory syndrome (PRSS), and swine influenza. An outbreak of any one of these diseases could be very damaging to the Kansas pork industry.

The Kansas Pork Association was a proponent of the present statutes when they were put in place. We have also been a strong proponent of the Feral Swine Control Program since its inception. We have provided \$60,000 in funding to assist the program.

We believe the Control Program has been very successful as Kansas is the only state with a measurable number of feral swine that has seen a population decline in recent years. However, we have found a couple of areas where a change could help. We believe the language added in Page 25, Section 40 (a) and (d) would provide the animal health commissioner with the ability to handle a handful of situations that are hampering the progress of the Feral Swine Control Program.

The KPA also supports the amendment to The Farm Animal and Research Facilities Protection Act on page 27, Section 41 (e)(1). We believe this amendment strengthens our statutes protecting farmers from those willing to falsify records in order to gain access to farms or ranches.

As we work to bring new swine operations to Kansas, these two statutes are very strong selling points for our state.

We hope the committee will support strengthening the two provisions within SB 414.

Kansas Pork Industry Facts



Pork farmers make Kansas better

1. There are 1,500 hog farms in Kansas. Of these operations, 310 produce over 95% of the state's pork.
2. Kansas is the number 10 state in hog and pig inventory producing about 2.85 percent of the nation's total.
3. In 2011, Kansas producers sold 3,146,247 market hogs, feeder pigs and seedstock with a gross market value of \$563,891,606. These hogs produced over 500,000,000 pounds of pork which helps feed millions of people in the U.S. and abroad through exports.

Pork industry important to Kansas economy

Kansas pork farms consume over 30 million bushels of grain. Primarily, these operations utilize Kansas-grown grain sorghum and corn. At January 2012 prices, the pork industry will spend over \$180,000,000 on grain sorghum and corn this year.

Kansas pork farms also consume the equivalent of over eight million bushels of soybeans through soybean products. At January 2012 prices, the pork industry will spend over \$92,000,000 on soybean meal this year.

Kansas pork farmers support suppliers of goods and services to their businesses. A short list of vendors includes:

- **Feed suppliers** - grain and nutritional supplements.
- **Construction** - includes new building and maintenance.
- **Labor** - as with any business, growth means increased labor needs.
- **Supplies** - pork producers utilize Main Street businesses for a vast array of items ranging from veterinary supplies to office supplies.
- **Equipment** - pork producers utilize specialty equipment for many tasks including nutrient management.
- **Utilities** - gas, propane and electric.
- **Trucking** - producers utilize trucking to bring grain to the farm as well as hauling hogs to market.
- **Services** - pork producers utilize many services along Main Street including financial, medical, accounting, legal, engineering, and veterinary.