



Since 1894

To: House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
Representative Sharon Schwartz, Chair

From: Mike Beam, Sr. Vice President

Re: **Testimony supporting HB 2069, amending multi-year flex accounts statutes**

Date: February 2, 2015

The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), formed in 1894, is a trade association representing over 5,000 members on legislative and regulatory issues. KLA members are involved in many aspects of the livestock industry, including seed stock, cow-calf and stocker production, cattle feeding, dairy production, grazing land management and diversified farming operations.

The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) is submitting this statement in support of House Bill 2069, a bill allowing a water user, who is enrolled in a "multi-year flex account", to carry over a limited amount of groundwater usage into a subsequent multi-year flex account term permit.

For several years KLA members have reaffirmed a policy supporting state legislation and/or regulation that gives water users a multi-year water allocation with flexibility in the volume of water put to beneficial use each year. We supported SB 272, which passed during the 2012 Kansas Legislative Session and viewed it as a meaningful change to the statutes governing the multi-year flex account term permits.

Likewise, the proposed changes to this law is welcomed by our members as it provides additional flexibility and an added incentive for conservation. If a water user knows they will have the opportunity to carry over a limited volume of unused water during their five year term permit, they may be more inclined to cut back their water usage and save it for a subsequent five year flex account.

We applaud the Kansas Department of Agriculture and the Governor's administration for their continued efforts in seeking changes that give water users additional tools for managing the water resource in a manner that is responsive to weather patterns, economic factors and conservation goals.

In summary, HB 2069 is an improvement to the multi-year flex account law that provides conservation benefits and added flexibility. We urge the Senate Committee on Natural Resources to give it favorable consideration.