

## Livestock Mortality Management

The rare, but catastrophic large number mortality events that occur in livestock production gained national spotlight this year with the heat related deaths of cattle in Southwest Kansas. The rarity and the number of animals involved helped fuel the conspiracy theories and public uncertainties regarding the event. Kansas has two agencies that do respond to these events and both did a great job. The Kansas Department of Health Environment Bureau of Field Services aided in the final disposition of mortalities and the Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Animal Health provided information to the public as to how this type of event occurs.

There are a number of reasons for large mortality livestock events, which is not today's topic. What happens when these do occur regardless of the cause (assuming weather or disease related)? For a permitted livestock feeding operation, a call is placed to KDA and KDHE to alert the agencies of the event and get resources and personnel in play. For many of these operations one item is already in play, the preselection of an emergency burial site with KDHE. This site has been selected with consultation with the facility and KDHE technical staff including a site visit to the proposed location by field staff. Allow this site is pre-selected filed with KDHE a final approval from KDHE and the County Commissioners is required prior to use.

Most often this site is not used, as it is set up for an event that would require the disposal of the entire facility. Typically, events are much smaller but still catastrophic. Basically, in the event of a large mortality incident there are three options; burial on producer owned property, composting either at the facility or nearby, and disposal at a permitted solid waste landfill. Each of these options has pros and cons based on but not limited to cost, personnel requirements, environmental considerations, land requirements, event cause, and time of year.

Burial operations when soil types, depth to groundwater, facility location can provide a fairly quick option. Composting can provide a option that retains the nutrient contained in the carcass for agronomic use however requires time and labor. Lastly, there are times when there is a permitted solid waste land nearby that will take the mortalities. This route comes with tipping fees and is not common.

For daily mortality losses these same options are available for permitted facilities and unpermitted facilities can utilize composting if their site is less than 1/2 acre in size. KDHE in the last few years has worked to make the process of utilizing mortality management options other than rendering better for Kansas producers. This includes the development of Policy that outlines recommendations and requirements for these options. A new option that has been added during this time is aboveground composting. Basically, this is a shallow burial that promotes carcass degradation by soil microbes and uptake of nutrients by crops or native plants.

For more information contact Matt at the KCA office.

### Ballot Correction

#### Ballot Item #1 COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING

**Be it resolved** that the Kansas Cattlemen's Association supports Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling on all imported and mixed origin cattle and beef, where the importer will bear the burden of proof and cost.

**Be it further resolved** that United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services immediately remove livestock from the U.S. Department of the Treasury 304(a)(3)(J) "J-List", thereby requiring all imported cattle to be marked with a permanent, visible mark of origin as a condition of entry into the United States.

**Be it further resolved** that the Kansas Cattlemen's Association and the Kansas Animal Health Department makes every effort to implement permanent, mandatory visual identification of all imported cattle.

**Be it further resolved** that the Kansas Cattlemen's Association supports legislation and/or regulation which requires beef promoted as "USA Beef" be born, raised, and harvested in the USA.

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## Special Thank you to All of the Participants of the 2022 Benefit Auction

The Kansas Cattlemen's Association held its annual benefit auction on Saturday evening of the 24th Annual KCA Convention. Andrew Miller provided his auctioneering skills for the event. Monies raised from the benefit auction support KCA and the KCA and GoBob Scholarship Program.

This year, KCA members Dallas and Sarah Luthi donated a High Bred Simmental heifer for the rollover auction. Possession of the heifer was sold to the highest bid by Jim and Janie Barber for a total of \$2,975. Including rollover, the grand total raised for the auction was \$20,680

Thank you to the many donors and participants for the contributions and efforts in helping make the 24th Annual KCA Benefit Auction a huge success! Additionally, a special thank you to Kim Woodall and Tyler Dupy for working on-site during the convention to coordinate the benefit auction and to Wyatt Miller, Emery Mills, and Codie Cannon for providing their professional modeling skills.

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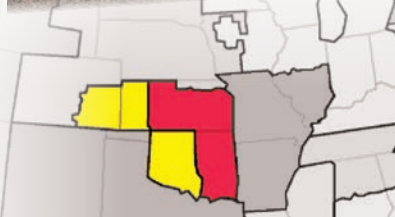
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## KCA Appoints Matthew Steele as CEO / Executive Director

Kansas Cattlemen's Association Board of Directors announces the appointment of Matthew Steele as the new CEO and Executive Director. Previously, Matt was the Section Chief of the Livestock Waste Management Program at KDHE. He is a Professional Engineer in the state of Kansas and has worked as an engineer in the region for 17 years in the private and public sectors and in both the Civil and Agricultural Engineering fields. Matt holds a Ph.D. in Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering from Oklahoma State University and M.S. and B.S. degrees in Biological and Agricultural Engineering from Kansas State University.

Matt grew up in Scott City where his family owned and operated Steele and Son's Feedyard. Growing up on a western Kansas feedyard shaped his choice to pursue agricultural engineering, specifically in the area of soil and water. Matt is the owner of Steele Engineering, LLC., an engineering and environmental services firm.

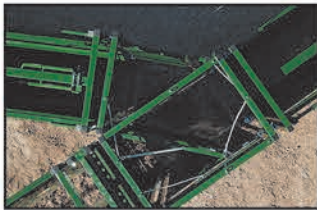
Areas that Matt plans to focus on at KCA are member growth, producer alternative marketing opportunities, and public outreach. At this year's convention we were introduced to several alternative marketing ideas that can be applied here in Kansas both individually and as an association. Through public outreach both to producers and consumers positive growth of the association can be realized as we demonstrate our mission to be stewards and advocates for independent cattlemen.

Together, Matt and his wife, Megan, have 5 children; Jaelynn, Cooper, Trig, Remi Kate, and Colt. The Steele family currently resides in Manhattan where they are active in their kids' school, Flint Hills Christian School. Faith, Family, and Liberty are the guiding principles for Matt and his family. Matt states, "without a strong faith-centered family, strength, success, and courage in the day can be difficult."



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