



TESTIMONY

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

From: Tim Stroda, President-CEO, Kansas Pork Association

Date: March 20, 2013

Re: **HB2404** — Amending definitions related to agricultural corporations and repealing certain agricultural corporation statutes

Chairperson Schwartz, members of the Committee, I am Tim Stroda. I represent the members of the Kansas Pork Association.

As you know, the corporate farming issue is not new. Our policy on this issue was actually adopted 25 years ago. It is short and to the point.

**Our association supports all pork-producing farms. We also support any business structure that encourages cooperation among entities or individuals.**

For the past two years, the Department of Agriculture has been working with our association to recruit entities looking to expand their livestock businesses. We highlight our state's advantages in biosecurity, nutrient utilization and grain availability.

Unfortunately, in these meetings, the corporate farming statutes always come into the discussion. The bottom line for these entities is "we don't want to build where we aren't wanted."

HB 2204 sends a clear signal to investors that the state is really serious about bringing new livestock businesses and jobs to Kansas.

Our members believe their farms have proven to be important assets in their communities. We believe that any new farms will also prove valuable.

We hope the committee will acknowledge the good work of our members and provide support to the expansion of the swine industry with a favorable consideration on HB 2404.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.

# Kansas Pork Industry Facts



## **Pork farmers make Kansas better**

1. There are about 1,500 hog farms in Kansas. Of these operations, 300 produce over 95% of the state's pork.
2. Kansas is the number 10 state in hog and pig inventory producing about 3.0 percent of the nation's total.
3. In 2012, Kansas producers sold 3,220,637 market hogs, feeder pigs and seedstock with a gross market value of \$560,499,256. 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 2013 prices, the pork industry will spend over \$210,000,000 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 2013 prices, the pork industry will spend over \$112,000,000 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.