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KDA and NMDA Host Mexican Cattlewomen Trade Mission in Celebration of International Year of the Woman Farmer



An all-women beef cattle genetics trade team from Mexico visits with Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Mike Beam at Kansas State University's Stockmen's Dinner as part of a multi-state trade mission focused on U.S. beef cattle genetics.

MANHATTAN, Kansas — In a first-of-its-kind effort highlighting the growing role of women in the cattle industry, the Kansas Department of Agriculture partnered with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture to host an all-women delegation of six cattle producers from Chihuahua, Mexico, for a multi-state trade mission focused on U.S. beef cattle genetics. The program provided participants with opportunities to explore U.S. beef cattle genetics, strengthen industry relationships, and identify potential suppliers for future purchases.

Women play an increasingly important role in agriculture, contributing significantly to farm and ranch operations worldwide, yet they remain underrepresented in international trade missions and leadership opportunities in the livestock sector. This mission, held during the International Year of the Woman Farmer, underscores the expanding leadership and influence of women in agriculture across borders.

The delegation represented Mujeres Ganaderas de México (MUGAM; "Cattlewomen of Mexico") and traveled through New Mexico and Kansas the first week of March to strengthen commercial relationships and explore opportunities to import U.S. beef genetics. The mission was made possible through the departments' membership in U.S. Livestock Genetics Export, Inc., with funding support from the USDA Market Access Program.

In Kansas, the group continued with visits to Jensen Ranch's annual bull sale, Fink Beef Genetics, and Downey Ranch Inc., where they observed a range of breeding programs and

management approaches. Discussions focused on genetic selection, herd performance, and export considerations, with several participants initiating follow-up conversations related to potential semen purchases. The delegation also attended Kansas State University's Stockmen's Dinner and Cattlemen's Day, gaining exposure to current research, market trends, and industry networking opportunities.

While in New Mexico, where the group toured cattle ranches, attended a bull sale, and met with industry leaders from the New Mexico Beef Council and the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association, as well as producers from across the region.

Throughout the mission, participants exchanged knowledge on cattle production practices and evaluated how U.S. genetics could add value to their operations. The experience also created space for relationship-building among women in agriculture, including a networking session with Kansas Cattlewomen focused on leadership and organizational development.

"Mexico is an important market for beef genetics, and this visit expanded those connections to support long-term growth opportunities for Kansas livestock producers," said Secretary Mike Beam. "We appreciate our partnership with USLGE as well as with our counterparts at the New Mexico Department of Agriculture."

For more information, contact KDA International Trade Director Kathryn Wessel at Katheryn.Wessel@ks.gov or 785-564-7466, or NMDA Marketing Specialist Juan Sanchez at jsanchez@nmda.nmsu.edu or 575-339-5047.

Market Report

Wheat.....\$5.76
Corn.....\$4.40
Milo.....\$3.85
Soybean.....\$N/A

Prices are as of Monday morning and may change at any given time due to fluctuation in markets.

Weather Report

	Hi	Lo
Thursday	2	69
Friday	3	60
Saturday	4	57
Sunday	5	67
Monday	6	74
Tuesday	7	68
Wednesday	8	69



Kansas Corn Growers Praise E15 Waiver, Call for Permanent, Year-Round Solution 3--25-26: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced today that it will use its existing authority to grant an emergency waiver to allow access to lower-cost and lower-emission E15 for the summer months this year. The move will waive an obsolete rule that would prevent drivers from using E15 in the summer months. The higher ethanol blend was approved in 2011 for use in approximately 98% of all passenger vehicles on the road today.

Kansas Corn Growers Association CEO Josh Roe said the emergency

waiver was appreciated but falls short of a permanent solution to allow year-round E15.

"We appreciate that the Administration was able to provide this vital backstop to allow our retailers to offer E15 due to Congressional inaction. While this is a relief for our fuel retailers that have invested in offering E15, an emergency action does not provide the needed certainty to recruit additional stations to add E15 as an option for their customers. Congressional action to codify E15 permanently would provide needed additional demand for corn and provide relief for our farmers in these trying times," Roe said.

"KCGA will remain laser focused in holding Congress accountable to provide this relief and will continue to engage with Governor Kelly to provide long-term E15 certainty in Kansas."

An outdated federal rule prevents year-round access to E15 fuel, and the ethanol industry has been forced to rely on emergency waivers from year-to-year to offer E15 in the summer months. Seven Midwest states have found a more permanent solution by signing on to a letter requesting to be exempted from the outdated rule, which allows year-round E15 in those states. EPA granted requests from the governors of Missouri,

Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

In a statement released in late February, Kansas Governor Laura Kelly called for passage of federal legislation allowing year-round E15. She pointed out that reliance on emergency waivers puts pressure on ethanol producers and farmers, and said she was seriously considering signing on to the governors' letter to allow year-round E15 in Kansas.

Kansas Corn For more information or to arrange an interview, contact Sue Schulte, Senior Director of Communications Cell: 785-418-7610.

Hearing for Proposed Changes to Noxious Weed Regulations

MANHATTAN, Kansas — A public hearing will be conducted at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, to consider changes to regulations relating to noxious weeds, including additions to the designation list of noxious weeds. The hearing will be held in person at the Kansas Department of Agriculture at 1320 Research Park Dr. in Manhattan, as well as via video conferencing system.

The KDA plant protection and weed control program is proposing an amendment to K.A.R. 4-8-27 to consolidate references to control methods for the Noxious Weed Act into one regulation and add new control methods for proposed noxious weeds, followed by the revocation of the regulations which

previously listed control methods separately. In addition, the program is proposing an amendment to K.A.R. 4-8-44 to add several plant species to the designation list of noxious weeds, including: adding spotted knapweed and diffuse knapweed as Category A noxious weeds; adding common teasel and cutleaf teasel as Category B noxious weeds; and adding Amur honeysuckle as a Category C noxious weed.

A copy of the proposed regulation changes, control methods, and environmental benefit statement, as well as an expanded notice of public hearing, may be accessed on the KDA website at agriculture.ks.gov/PublicComment. Anyone desiring to participate via video conference must pre-register to be

provided with a video link; the registration is available in the notice of public hearing. Written comments can be submitted prior to the hearing on KDA's public comment web page, or sent by email to Ronda.Hutton@ks.gov or by mail to the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Attn: Ronda Hutton, 1320 Research Park Dr., Manhattan, KS, 66502.

Any individual with a disability may request accommodations in order to participate in the public hearing and may request a copy of the regulations in an accessible format. Persons who require special accommodations should make their needs known at least two working days prior to the hearing. For more information, including how to request special

accommodations or a copy of the regulations, please contact Ronda Hutton at 785-564-6715 or Ronda.Hutton@ks.gov.

WHAT: Public hearing on proposed changes to noxious weed regulations
WHEN: 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7, 2026
WHERE: Kansas Department of Agriculture 1320 Research Park Dr., Manhattan, Kansas

Or virtual: via video conferencing system



Graphic Tidbits

THE OAKLEY GRAPHIC hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. We are closed on Thursday. In order to get the news and advertising in The Oakley Graphic on time, our deadline is 4:00 pm on Friday prior to publication. You may send news and advertising to graphic@st-tel.net. You may also mail or drop it by the office at 404 E Front Street. If you need to reach us by phone our number is 785-672-3228. Items brought in after the deadline will be added as time and space permits.

USD 274 – Do to a scheduling conflict, the K-12 Spring Vocal Concert has been moved to May 4, 2026. K-6 begins at 6:30 pm and 7-12 begins at 7:30 pm.

HELLO Preschool is accepting applications for the 2026-2027 school year. Child must be 3 years old by June 1st, 2026. Pick up applications at Oakley Elementary School.

The Angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he is risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay."

Matthew 28:5-6

