

Kansas Farm Bureau
POLICY STATEMENT

House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

**Re: HB 2207 an act concerning public health; relating to
confined feeding facilities**

February 14, 2013

Submitted by:

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Director of Natural Resources

Interim Director of Government Relations

Chairperson Schwartz and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 2207. I am Steve Swaffar, Interim Director of Governmental Relations. Kansas Farm Bureau supports HB 2207.

Our members are certainly in favor of creating a known and certain process for establishing the construction and permitting timelines and separation distances for confined feeding operations. Conceptually, HB 2207 seeks to institute the point in time when the permit separation distance is established by notification through registration with KDHE. This improvement can establish two things: one, a process for facility construction where the operator can make intent to construct known and secondly take away the uncertainty of separation distance being changed prior to actual construction.

Under current law, an intended or unintended permanent or temporary habitable structure could be erected prior to the feeding facility construction commencing. This action would subsequently make the already planned facility move or seek a waiver of separation distance. The uncertainty the current law creates may discourage new facilities from coming to Kansas and may unfairly treat facilities trying to operate within the current law. HB 2207 seeks to resolve that uncertainty.

KFB has been working with the Department and other stakeholders to improve the language in the bill to streamline the process for establishing a notice of construction

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and a time certain for establishing the documented separation distance. These improvements will create a more stable permitting system for newly constructed feeding facilities. We hope the Committee will consider adopting this new language.

KFB urges the Committee to act favorably on HB 2207. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.