

**Kansas Farm Bureau
Policy Statement**

**House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
HB 2231; An act concerning water**

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Submitted by:

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Chairman Powell and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill 2231 relating to multi-year water flex accounts. I am Kent Askren, Water Resources Specialist for the Kansas Farm Bureau. As written, KFB stands in support of HB 2231.

Water flex accounts provide a unique opportunity for water right holders to maximize their water right potential over a 5 year period instead of just the usual per calendar year basis. This opportunity is especially valuable to those with "short" water rights or during drought conditions.

HB 2231 makes adjustments to current multi-year flex account statute by improving the opportunity for participation and making adjustments to the representative years for determination of base average usage. These improvements will help make the program more attractive to those in need of some flexibility exercising their water rights.

By improving and maintaining multi-year flex accounts water will be better utilized to its highest economic value by enabling producers to adequately irrigate a crop based upon the moisture needs that may have otherwise exceeded the legal limits of the water right. Additionally, this will help detour the over pumping of water rights and the costs associated with such actions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony for your consideration.