



**House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
Testimony on HB 2502**

By Tim Stroda
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Mr. Chairman, 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 24 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.

HB 2502 is a step in the right direction. But, it does not send a clear signal to investors that the state is really interested in bringing new pork industry businesses and jobs to Kansas. By requiring county approval, there is still a great deal of uncertainty tied to a new project. Unfortunately, this extra step may be the reason some investors will look to other states.

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 2052.

Kansas Pork Industry Facts



Pork farmers make Kansas better

1. There are 1,500 hog farms in Kansas. Of these operations, 310 produce over 95% of the state's pork.
2. Kansas is the number 10 state in hog and pig inventory producing about 2.85 percent of the nation's total.
3. In 2011, Kansas producers sold 3,146,247 market hogs, feeder pigs and seedstock with a gross market value of \$563,891,606. 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 2012 prices, the pork industry will spend over \$180,000,000 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 2012 prices, the pork industry will spend over \$92,000,000 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.