

## Kansas Cattlemen Concerned Over Farm Bill Amendment to Mandate Egg Production

Last Thursday, Kansas Cattlemen's Association hosted a Creekstone Farms plant tour for 31 cattlemen and industry leaders. Attendees got a chance to walk through the plant and view each step of the plant process, from the humane treatment of the livestock to the processing of hamburger.

One noticeable aspect of the tour was all of the safety checkpoints in place to ensure consumers receive a safe product. The Ark. City plant is one of the most modern plants in the industry, and Creekstone Farms takes great strides to not only have quality controls in place but numerous safety controls in place as well. It's Hazardous Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) Course has even received accreditation by the International HACCP Alliance, confirming its dedication to food safety.

Creekstone Farms has created a niche market for its age and source verified cattle and has been successful in exporting its beef through that market. With animal welfare a priority, Creekstone Farms has also maintained stringent standards of humane treatment of cattle which helps to produce superior quality beef.

"It is great to see how it (Creekstone Farms) has created a program that produces a consistent top quality product. With their age and source program, Creekstone can track back their product to each individual rancher. This is a great example of how the industry and cattlemen have come together to develop a voluntary animal I.D. system without government stepping in and mandating it," stated KCA Director and El Dorado cattleman Mason Greene.

"Holding events like this holds great importance in our industry because we always want to share with consumers how wholesome, healthy, and safe beef is. By touring Creekstone, we are not only showcasing state-of-the-art facilities but also the efficiency and quality that they send out to the store shelves on a daily basis. Not everyone understands production from farm to fork but by holding these types of events, we are hoping to educate more and more consumers on the positives of beef production," stated KCA event coordinator Kelsey Gibson.

KCA would like to thank Creekstone Farms and Christine Tanner for their hospitality and all of the sponsors who made this event possible: Howard State Bank-Howard, Bluestem Veterinary Clinic-Cedar Vale, Winfield Livestock Auction-Winfield, Mid American Credit Union-Arkansas City, Valley Co-Op, Inc.-Winfield, Prairieland Partners-Winfield, Ark Valley Credit Union-Arkansas City, Bank of the West-Winfield, Schmidt & Sons-Winfield, Citizens Bank of Kansas - Winfield, Caney Valley Electric Co-Op-Cedar Vale, Community National Bank-Winfield, Cowley County Farm Bureau-Winfield, and RCB Bank-Ark.City.