



## Coronavirus Updates and Information

- KCA continues to be in constant contact with our state and national leaders and agencies, the Governor's office, national affiliate groups, livestock marketing groups, and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to address the importance of keeping cattle moving during this situation.
- At this time, the Governor of Kentucky has issued a broad exemption for agriculture, and we will continue to monitor this. We are addressing the need for exemptions for agriculture, retailers, wholesalers, veterinarians, feed suppliers and producers to conduct necessary business and commerce to adequately care for livestock, purchase inputs and plant crops.
  - [KCA Issues Letter and Affidavit for Agriculture Travel](#)
  - [KCA, KPP, KPF Send Letter to Governor Andy Beshear](#)
- Small businesses with 500 or fewer employees—including nonprofits, veterans organizations, tribal concerns, self-employed individuals, sole proprietorships, and independent contractors—are eligible for the Paycheck Protection Program. We heard from many of our members who also own small businesses, so we are trying to make sure that everyone knows about the PPP and how to apply.
  - [PPP Fact Sheet](#)
- The stimulus program continues to be a huge discussion. The USDA's Chief Economist has the ultimate say in how the 9.5 billion will be divided among specialty crop producers; producers who support local food systems such as farmers markets, schools, and restaurants; and all livestock producers, including dairy and hogs. USDA has also reiterated that no stimulus money will be going to the packers. With that being said, KCA is working to make sure Kentucky's beef cattle industry is represented.
  - Dr. Derrell Peel from Oklahoma State University was chosen to draft a CARES Act stimulus package for cattle producers. He has selected a group of economists and market analysts to help us develop a report to take to USDA. Dr. Kenny Burdine from the University of Kentucky was one of the nine economists selected.
- Last week, USDA announced the Packers and Stockyards Division will be extending their oversight to determine the causes of divergence between box and live beef prices, beginning with the Holcomb Fire in KS last summer and now with COVID-19. There have been several letters from Senators and national organizations sent to the Department of Justice (DOJ), USDA, and President Trump encouraging an investigation.

KCA listened in to a call with Secretary Sonny Perdue, hosted by NCBA, to discuss the investigation and market disparity. On the call, Sec. Perdue was asked if he could give an update on the full investigation and a timeline for completion and if he could discuss how USDA intends to work with DOJ on this effort. Because it is an ongoing investigation, the Secretary was not able to give details on the full investigation or give a timeline of when it would be completed. He did report on the relationship with USDA and the DOJ saying that the Packers and Stockyards Division did not feel like that had enough investigatory tools in order to investigate the full critical scope from a document standpoint and will be coordinating and working with the DOJ in order to get that done.