Ag Sector Breakouts: Critical Points and Takeaways
Connect ag equipment industry with high schools to expand youth immersion activities and develop a pipeline of employees. Ag ed instructors need knowledge and experience to teach the basic skills to their students.
Seek ways to connect traditional agriculture with the newest agriculture technology & innovation network.
Need broad collaboration of animal health partners on innovative recruiting of quality vets committed to serving rural Kansas & large animal agriculture.
Beef industry priority: market and industry traceability system. Continue CattleTrace to fine tune to help producers. Broader adoption, incentivize producers with potential of added value in export markets.
Continued education on corn ag practices and GMO through programs like seed to stem. Continue to increase corn usage through ethanol and other uses.
Workforce/labor is an issue for the cotton industry. Need to find and retain quality workers. An immigration program allowing short-term employment would help.
A dairy beef processing facility is needed/wanted, but we need to evaluate and get all the players to the table. Workforce remains a concern: need a simpler visa.
Data on **equine** industry is critical (numbers, activities, economic return). We need to prioritize development of an economic impact report for the Kansas horse industry.
The feed and forage industry needs more commitment to research and education.
New processors need help understanding/finding all the resources needed to create and grow a food processing business.
Growth will require a targeted economic group focused on recruiting pet food and allied industry to the state.
Continued support of Secure Pork Supply program and the development of a regional response plan for an animal disease outbreak.
Poultry industry needs litter regulations developed with sound science, industry support, and stakeholder inclusion in the rule making process.
Sorghum needs a strategy that is unified and seamless in development and implementation between U.S. Sorghum Checkoff and Kansas Grain Sorghum.
Kansas is open for business for soybeans and other oilseeds. We must encourage marketing efforts of value-added items containing Kansas products.
We need elevated opportunities for the Kansas Specialty Crop Growers Association to develop partnerships to help expand the specialty crops industry.
The specialty livestock sector wants to form an umbrella co-op to share best practices and marketing while maintaining their individuality. Also… a sector name that is more inclusive.
The skill set for UAS crosses many professions. This needs to be recognized by the Dept of Labor to enable companies to grow and/or move to Kansas.
Let’s change our mindset of how we take wheat to market — treat it as an ingredient, not just a commodity.
Ag Growth Project:
agriculture.ks.gov/GrowAg