

**Testimony on  
to  
The Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs  
By Jackie McClaskey  
Kansas Department of Agriculture  
January 30, 2013**

Good morning, Chairman Ostmeyer, and members of the committee. I am Jackie McClaskey, assistant secretary with the Kansas Department of Agriculture, and I am here to express KDA's support of Senate Bill 34, concerning the commission on emergency planning and response; membership.

Now in its second full year, the transition of the former Kansas Department of Animal Health into the Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Animal Health has largely been a success story. In addition to achieving cost reductions, the transition has enabled the Division of Animal Health to utilize KDA support services, increase technical staff positions and increase efficiency in its ability to deliver high-quality service to animal agriculture in Kansas.

Emergency preparedness is critical for our entire state, but especially for our agricultural sector that produces food, fiber and energy for the global marketplace. KDA's Emergency Management Coordinator works closely with all programs, including the Division of Animal Health, at the department but also with all emergency preparedness professionals in the state. In an effort to create a more efficient and streamlined commission on emergency planning and response, KDA supports SB 34 that will merge two positions formerly held by a representative from KDA and a representative from KDA Division of Animal Health into one KDA representative on the commission. The Emergency Management Coordinator will capably and aptly be able to fulfill emergency planning and response needs for KDA.