

Department of Agriculture Fees; Local Food and Farm Task Force; National Day of the Cowboy; SB 286

SB 286 extends the sunset from July 1, 2015, to July 1, 2018, on various fees that are currently charged by the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA). In addition, the bill adds two fee exemptions for milk processors that process or manufacture milk at the dairy where the milk is produced.

The bill also establishes the Local Food and Farm Task Force. The Task Force is responsible for preparing a local food and farm plan containing policy and funding recommendations in order to increase locally grown food production. The Task Force is composed of seven members, as follows:

- Three members appointed by the Governor, including the Chairperson;
- One member representing the KDA;
- One member representing the Kansas State University Extension Systems and Agricultural Research Programs, appointed by the Dean of the College of Agriculture; and
- One member from the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources and one from the Senate Committee on Agriculture, each appointed by the respective chairperson and representing different political parties.

In addition, the bill designates the last Saturday in July of each year as National Day of the Cowboy in the state. The bill authorizes and directs the Governor to annually issue a proclamation calling upon state officials to display the U.S. flag on the last Friday of July, declare the date to be the National Day of the Cowboy, and invite people of the state to observe the day. The bill also authorizes and directs the Governor to display the National Day of the Cowboy flag on the grounds of the Capitol on the last Friday of July each year. The bill requires the KDA to provide education and outreach for the National Day of the Cowboy.