

Feedlot

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According to the EPA, Kansas ranks second in the nation in estimated area with higher levels of nitrates in drinking water than permissible.

The EPA estimates that 5% of Kansans have private, unregulated water wells.

Kansas State University student Chase Glasscock said most of those Kansans are farmers who keep the economy going, and neglecting their needs could hurt the state.

“If we’re not taking care of them, then we’re not taking care of ourselves,” Glasscock said when presenting his data to the public in November.

Response from the health department and company

KDHE said in an email that the reason the ILS feedlot was approved was because it met all the statutory and regulatory requirements. But the agency did acknowledge the elevated risk the region has due to its soil composition.

To try and address the community’s concerns, KDHE provided stricter guidelines than the minimum to control pollution.

That includes seepage requirements for the manure lagoon and protections for groundwater much greater than required by state law.

“We are committed to our role in protecting the environment but also acknowledge that owners of feeding facilities have rights that have been set in law. We are only able to enforce requirements that we have jurisdiction over,” KDHE spokesperson Mitchell Osterlund said.

ILS also expressed an interest to go above and beyond and adhere to more stringent



Joe Vinduska/Barton Community College

Students from Barton Community College, Dodge City Community College and Kansas State University take samples from a family’s well to check the nitrate levels.

standards tailored to this unique situation.

ILS sent Jon Skelton, their chief financial officer, to the meeting to calm the waters.

Skelton told the attendees that a significant number of ILS shareholders live locally within or near the county.

ILS didn’t respond to a request for comment.

There have been proponents of the feedlot who have been surprised by the negative backlash.

A few spoke at the public hearing and have been trying to make the case that this feedlot will create economic opportunities.

It’s estimated that the feedlot will create 70 jobs for the town, but also could provide a strong market for nearby farmers and agribusinesses.

Pawnee County has been steadily losing its population for decades. Some here are eager for new business and development.

In a press release, ILS estimated it will contribute approximately \$50 million in added valuation to Pawnee County’s tax base.

With the permit approved, construction is planned to start later this year, with the facility operating by 2027

Where to go from here

Felix Revello is a chapter delegate for the Kansas Sierra Club near Larned. He has been leading the charge in opposition to the feedlot.

“We want the permit to operate the proposed feedlot withheld until after any water and air pollution from existing feedlots is researched and remediated,” Revello said.

Revello and Cauble spent their time at a local festival handing out a petition to appeal KDHE’s approval of the feedlot’s permit.

With over 50 signatures and a lot of firsthand stories about health and environmental concerns with a feedlot of this magnitude, Revello delivered the information to Gov. Laura Kelly’s office.

“Urban areas would not tolerate this level of health risk and pollution,” Revello said. “Why do we constantly ask our rural residents to?”

The Kansas News Service is a collaboration of KCUR, Kansas Public Radio, KMUW and High Plains Public Radio focused on health, the social determinants of health and their connection to public policy. Visit ksnewsservice.org

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4	7	8	1	2	3	5	6	9
2	5	1	4	9	6	7	3	8
3	6	9	7	8	5	1	4	2
5	3	7	2	6	4	8	9	1
1	4	6	8	5	9	3	2	7
9	8	2	3	1	7	4	5	6
8	1	5	6	4	2	9	7	3
6	9	3	5	7	8	2	1	4
7	2	4	9	3	1	6	8	5

fighting then and saved the world, that’s an important thing to remember with this engine’s restoration. Its soul has been restored.”

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Power Play = 2

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Drawing June 9
3 5 7 12 23 10

2by2 Kansas

Drawing June 9
Red — 14 24
White — 5 21

Mega Millions

Drawing June 6
16, 40, 54, 56, 57, 3
Megaplier = NA

Pick 3

Drawing June 10
Midday — 5 2 5
Drawing June 9
Evening — 5 5 8

Lucky for Life

Drawing June 9
3 7 17 29 46 15

*Numbers are unofficial

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Market Watch

	Tuesday	Change
ADM	48.74	+0.03
Apple	202.47	-0.20
AT&T	28.43	-0.01
Bank of Am.	45.08	-0.035
Bayer	7.53	-0.06
Boeing	216.00	+0.14
BP	30.20	-0.025
Caterpillar	360.08	+1.43
Coca-Cola	72.35	-0.03
ConocoPhillips	91.18	-0.02
Deere	515.82	-0.08
Evergy	67.63	-0.33
Exxon Mobil	107.22	-0.06
Ford Motor	10.5899	-0.0051
Harley-David	25.05	-0.37
Home Depot	368.37	+0.29
IBM	276.23	-0.07
Johnson & Jo.	156.50	UNCH
McDonald's	300.35	-0.06

Microsoft	470.92	-1.83
Pepsico	131.83	+1.87
Pfizer	24.30	+0.33
Union Pacific	226.60	+2.46
UPS	102.46	+3.15
Wal-Mart	97.24	-0.12

Grains:

Prices as of 4 p.m. June 10

Wheat	\$4.97
Change	-0.11
Corn	\$4.00
Change	+0.02
Soybeans	9.66
Change	0.00
Milo	3.75
Change	+0.02

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Antique

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two years ago to signify the A&SV’s Rock Island Railroad legacy.

The engine is numbered 34 to signify Dwight Eisenhower’s status as the 34th President, and “I Like Ike” campaign button decals are featured on the cab doors.

Adding to the locomotive’s historical significance, Schwarting’s crew mounted the type of horn that was used by the Rock Island’s famous passenger train, the Rocket.

“We got a Leslie A200 air horn, the type that would have been used on many of the diesels that pulled Rock Island passenger trains,” said staff member Dylan Miller, who collects and assembles air horns and whistles as a hobby.

Ike’s refurbishment is being paid for by a combination of grant monies, donations, and bank loans. The engine is expected to be in the A&SV’s regular lineup in a few weeks, and its use will be alternated with the Alco diesel switch engine, which has been powering A&SV trains since 1993.

The significance of the engine’s name, its historical significance, and its modernized appearance were noted by comments from spectators.

“I was there when we got it and initially got it running,” said A&SV founder Joe Minick, “it really looks nice.”

As the person who donated the engine thirty years ago, Rohrback said seeing the newly named and painted engine was a special feeling.

“I’m happy to see that after

30 years on the property here, it’s in good running condition with fresh paint. It really looks great. And I think it’s going to be a credit and of great value to the museum and the Abilene and Smoky Valley.”

For Mary Eisenhower, the engine’s restoration adds to its already special historical aura.

“There’s a history lesson involved here. The generation of this engine and what it did during World War II is significant,” she said.

“I think the soul of the war years and the legacy of the Greatest Generation that was

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