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US air travelers without REAL IDs will soon be charged a fee

Air travelers in the U.S. without a REAL ID will be charged a \$45 fee beginning in February, the Transportation Security Administration announced Monday.

The updated ID has been required since May, but passengers without it have so far been allowed to clear security with additional screening and a warning. The Department of Homeland Security says 94% of passengers are already compliant and that the new fee is intended to encourage travelers to obtain the ID.

REAL ID is a federally compliant state-issued license or identification card that meets enhanced requirements mandated in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Obtaining the ID — indicated by a white star in a yellow circle in most states — means taking more documents to the motor vehicle agency than most states require for regular IDs. It was supposed to be rolled out in 2008 but the implementation had been repeatedly delayed.

Beginning Feb. 1, travelers 18 and older flying domestically without a REAL ID and who don't have another

* NOTICE *

BUY - SALE - TRADE - The Classified ads section of this newspaper will help you sell your item. Call us at (785) 525-6355; 1-800-286-7571; FAX (785) 525-6356 or email: lusynews@gmail.com. Let the Classified ads work for you.

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Kansas Farm Bureau.....Insight

Glenn Brunkow, Kansas Farm Bureau

A time for fellowship

The countdown is less than a week, and I can feel the excitement building! Yes, this is the week of Kansas Farm Bureau's (KFB) annual meeting in Manhattan, and I am excited to see everyone.

I love our annual meeting because it is a celebration of the past year and all our accomplishments. Starting Saturday night with a murder mystery fundraiser for the Kansas Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture. I do not know who the victim is, and that makes me just a little nervous, especially since I have not seen any indication I have any duties beyond Saturday night. Probably just an oversight.

Sunday starts with hearing from American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duval and honoring friends of Farm Bureau. Then come workshops and legislative updates. At the banquet that evening we hear from KFB President Joe Newland and honor some great farm families. What a day!

On Monday we look forward to 2026 with our business meeting. Personally, I look forward to presenting the work of the resolutions committee and deciding on the changes for our policy book for the upcoming year. I enjoy the debate and discussion as we adopt our framework for the upcoming legislative session.

Yes, we have a great schedule of events to celebrate accomplishments and to look forward to the work of the organization for the next year and all of that is very important, but it is not my favorite part of annual meeting.

My favorite part of annual meeting is the work done in the hallways between sessions and on breaks. It is the conversations around the tables at meals. To me, the best and most important part of annual meeting is renewing old friendships and meeting new people.

Those of us who are members of Kansas Farm Bureau do important work during our three days in Manhattan. The culmination of a year of great work and planning for the next year should not be overlooked, and it is the reason we come together. However, Kansas Farm Bureau is a family, and fellowship is also important.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as I can in that short amount of time. Agriculture can be kind of a lonely business at times and spending time with fellow farmers and ranchers is good for the soul. We have had a year with many challenges and the encouragement of friends is important. Given this past year, I would say the fellowship aspect is even more critical.

I will see many of you Saturday night and depending on the script, hopefully I will see everyone else Sunday morning. They never kill the vice president off, right? In any case, I am sure the hallways will be buzzing with talk this weekend and I cannot wait.

The Kansas Farm Bureau annual meeting only happens once a year so make sure you get all the loose ends tied up at home and be safe traveling to Manhattan. It's going to be a great weekend.

"Insight" is a weekly column published by *Kansas Farm Bureau*, the state's largest farm organization whose mission is to strengthen agriculture and the lives of Kansans through advocacy, education and service.

Application period for KDWP big game hunting permits now open

Kansas-based chapters of nonprofit organizations focused on wildlife conservation or promoting hunting and fishing have a special fundraising opportunity thanks to the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission. Through the Commission's Big Game Permit program, administered by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP), eligible organizations can enter a random drawing for one of seven special big game hunting permits, which may then be sold to raise money funds for conservation projects. Applications are due by December 26, 2025.

Each year, the program offers up to seven Commission Big Game permits (no more than one elk and one antelope, and up to seven deer permits), depending on the applicants' preferences. Deer permits are either-species/either-sex and are valid statewide during any season with the legal equipment for that season; and they do not count against other big game permits the license holder may obtain.

To apply:

- *Visit <https://ksoutdoors.gov/KDWP-Info/Commission/Commission-Big-Game-Permits>.
- *Download the 2026 Commission Big Game Permit Application and review the guidelines.
- *Return the completed application by mail or email to the addresses listed on the application.

"Organizations that win a Commission Big Game Permit typically raffle or auction it, which does two important things," said Sarah Navarro, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks' chief of licensing. "It helps them raise funds for its mission, and it generates dedicated dollars for a mutually agreed-upon con-

servation project that KDWP and the organization approve together."

Winning organizations keep 15 percent of their sale price of the Commission Big Game Permit to support their missions. The remaining 85 percent is held by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks until a mutually agreed-upon conservation project is approved. (If Kansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry is drawn, they may keep 85 percent of their sale price in order to offset donated deer processing fees.) Organizations may not win a Commission Big Game Permit more than once in a three-year period.

The 2025 winners were Ducks Unlimited Wyandotte Chapter, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers Kansas Chapter, Kansas Bowhunters Association, Ducks Unlimited Kansas University Chapters, Pheasants Forever Southwest Kansas Ringnecks Chapter, Pheasants Forever Osborne Chapter, and National Wild Turkey Foundation Salty Spurs Chapter.

For more information about the Commission Big Game Permits, contact Sarah Navarro, KDWP Chief of Licensing, at sarah.navarro@ks.gov.

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