

Important Information for Kansas Farmers on the Hansen-Mueller Co. Bankruptcy Filing

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If you are a Kansas farmer affected by the bankruptcy of Hansen-Mueller Co., an Omaha-based grain company that has substantial operations in western Kansas, please consider the following information:

Hansen-Mueller Co. filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy on November 17, 2025, in the District of Nebraska (Case No. 25-81226). Because they have filed for bankruptcy protection, they are currently legally stopped from paying past debts without court permission. The "settlement" you may have heard about in the news regarding payments to farmers was specific to Nebraska state licensure and likely does not apply to Kansas growers automatically.

Here is the immediate plan of action you should take to protect your financial interest.

Note: Before anything else mentioned below, please note that if you delivered grain within the 20 days prior to the bankruptcy filing (approx. Oct 28 - Nov 17), that portion of the debt may get "Administrative Priority," meaning it gets paid in full before other old debts. Also, the bankruptcy code gives farmers a priority claim for \$8,450 per individual. The rest of the debt above that amount is "general unsecured." When filing the Proof of Claim (mentioned below) you must specifically separate the value of grain delivered in that final 20-day window to maximize recovery.

Action Steps

1. Gather Your Documentation

Before you file, have the following ready. You will likely need to upload copies or reference specific numbers:

- Scale Tickets: All tickets for grain deliveries.
- Contracts: Any written contract or "confirmation of sale" you signed.
- Settlement Sheets: If you received any partial paperwork (even if unpaid).
- Correspondence: Any texts or emails where you asked for payment and they responded (or didn't).

2. File a "Proof of Claim" Immediately

You are likely now considered an unsecured creditor. You must formally tell the bankruptcy court that they owe you money, or you may not get paid from any asset sales.

- Where to file: The court has appointed a specific agent called Epiq to handle these claims.
- Website: <https://dm.epiq11.com/HansenMueller>



- Phone: 877-717-1702 (Toll-free)
- Action: Go to the website, click "File a Claim," and follow the instructions. You do not need a lawyer to file this initial form, but you must be accurate.

3. Check for Federal Bond Protection

This is a critical step for a Kansas farmer. Hansen-Mueller was not licensed as a grain dealer by the *state* of Kansas (which limits state-level help), but they often operate under a Federal Grain Warehouse License.

- Look at your scale tickets: Do they say "Issued under the US Warehouse Act" or have a federal license number?
- Why this matters: If your transaction falls under a federal license, there may be a federal surety bond available that can pay you faster or more fully than the bankruptcy court.
- Who to call: Contact the USDA Warehouse and Commodity Management Division at 816-926-6474 to ask if the specific facility that picked up your grain is covered by a federal bond.

4. Understand the "Nebraska Settlement" vs. Your Situation

You may hear news that "farmers are being paid." Be careful. Reports indicate the Nebraska Public Service Commission forced a settlement specifically for Nebraska farmers by threatening to pull their license *in that state*. Since Hansen-Mueller is not state-licensed in Kansas, you likely do not fall under that specific agreement and must rely on the bankruptcy claim or federal bond.

Summary of Next Steps

1. Go to the Epiq website listed above and check if your name is already on the creditor list. If not, file a claim.
2. Call the USDA (816-926-6474) to check on federal bond status for your specific pick-up location.

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