



Landowners Rights: Number One Issue for KFB Now Secure

The battle is won on an issue that is near and dear to Farm Bureau members, thanks to the hard work of your Kansas Farm Bureau governmental relations team.

A measure to prohibit the use of eminent domain for private economic development is now waiting to be signed by Governor Kathleen Sebelius. As a top priority for Kansas Farm Bureau, this bill will transition Kansas law from one of the most lenient states in the nation to one of the strictest, regarding the use of eminent domain.

For Farm Bureau members in Kansas, land ownership is a bedrock principle.



Many Kansas farmers raise kids, crops and livestock on ground that has been in their families for generations. This value cannot be measured.

The final version bans taking land for transfer except when the condemnation is for public infrastructure or a public utility, or where the property is unoccupied or unsafe for habitation under the building codes of the municipality.

Left unchecked, no farmland is safe.

Kansas Farm Bureau will continue to stand up for farmers and ranchers to defend their land and their livelihood.

Numerous KFB Priority Issues Successful this Legislative Session

Landowners with property adjoining rail trails will find additional authority to enforce current law and increased protection from liability as a result of HB 2432. The bill will allow affected landowners or city and county governments to file actions in district court to force trail groups to maintain existing trails according to their agreements with the local units of government and state law. The bill also prohibits lawsuits against landowners where individuals are injured while trespassing.

The Kansas Estate Tax will see its ultimate demise as a result of the passage of SB 365, which creates a free-standing estate tax that will sunset on January 1, 2010. For producers passing prior to that date, the bill allows ag land to be valued at its use value rather than market value and provides increasing exemption levels until 2010.

Kansas could see changes in government without added legislative hurdles after approval of SB 379. The controversial measure allows for city-city consolidation and county-county consolidation after approval of voters in each of the affected units of governments.

SB 388 will offer incentives for the production of biodiesel and mirrors current incentives available for the production of ethanol. HCR 6024 was adopted by the House and Senate and voices support for the 25 x 25 initiative, which supports 25% of the nations energy needs being met by renewable fuels by 2025.

Rural parts of the state may find more opportunities for veterinarians after the passage of HB 3005. The measure creates loan forgiveness for vet students who commit to practice in rural Kansas after their graduation.

A long-term initiative of KFB in creating a water right retirement program found success in HB 2710. The measure creates funding for permanent voluntary retirement of water rights in the Rattle Snake and Prairie Dog Basins. Appropriations of \$1.5 million have been allotted for the first year of the program.

The fledgling vineyard industry in Kansas will be able to access new markets following adoption of SB 297, which allows for shipment of wine in to and out of the state and will broaden markets for Kansas wine makers.



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PRICES

Choosing the best time to market your crops can make you successful or contribute to failure. Like in other businesses, farmers sometimes wait too long to price their corn, milo, bean or wheat crop.

Today's markets are considerably higher than historical averages. These markets are now providing some timely and lucrative opportunities. Wheat is trading in the \$4.80 a bushel range which is approximately \$1.30 a bushel more than the 10-year harvest price average (\$3.51) since Freedom to Farm. Corn is trading 50 cents a bushel more than the 10-year average. Soybeans pricing offers similar opportunities. Such pricing opportunities extend into 2007 and 2008.

The biggest reason most farmers will not forward price is the fear and uncertainty of delivery. What if I don't grow the crop? *Agriculture Solutions* has tools that can help farmers manage that risk.

One such tool is Revenue Protection Solution. This program allows farmers to establish a minimum hedged and insured cash flow and maintaining the upside in the market while minimizing delivery risk. Revenue Protection Solution is designed to deliver cash flow and financial stability to the entire crop production agriculture value chain.

To learn more, contact Dave Spears at spearsd@kfb.org.



Rural Schools Should Be Pleased with Finance Bill

The big issue all session long in the Statehouse has been school finance and your farm organization lobbied for legislation to enhance rural schools and provide adequate funding without breaking the bank.

At the eleventh hour of the 92nd day, the Kansas Senate passed the House-sponsored school finance bill 21-18. The measure, currently on its way to the Governor, adds \$466 million over the next three years. The three-year plan spreads \$194 million first-year expenditure over rural schools in a big way and designates the majority of its funding to programs for students at-risk of failing and to Base State Aid per Pupil allowing rural districts to benefit from the low-

enrollment and transportation factors in the formula.

The final bill adds a total of \$176 to Base State Aid per Pupil – the highest amount in any proposal this year. Rural schools should be happy with this number as dollars on the Base, due to the formula, are multiplied by low-enrollment and transportation weightings to provide extra money. In addition, the bill allows districts to increase the Local Option Budget to 31% of the District's General Fund and requires a mandatory vote for any percentage over 30%.

Funding was also allocated for at-risk students, creating a new category for "high density at-risk" kids and funds other parts of the formula identified by the Court.

Kansas Represented During AFBF Biotech Trip to Europe

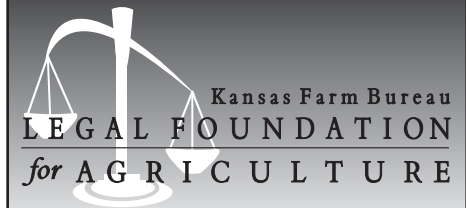
Four Farm Bureau leaders are spending time away from the farm to learn more and promote the benefits of biotechnology in Europe. KFB President Steve Baccus is among the delegation traveling to Berlin, Budapest, Warsaw and Poznan this week and next. Accompanying Baccus on the trip are North Carolina FB President Larry Wooten, Oklahoma FB President Steve Kouplun and Texas FB President Ken Dierschke.

During the trip, Farm Bureau presidents will focus on liability issues of cross contamination, coexistence, potential benefit for biofuel production, economic and environmental impact of biotechnology and gain first-hand knowledge of organic and biotech farming.

Host of the Farm Bureau group will be Charles Rush, agricultural

attaché for Poland and Lithuania, U.S. Embassy in Warsaw, Poland. The trip is organized by American Farm Bureau Federation's Congressional Relations Director for International Trade Ron Gaskill and is funded from a USDA Section 108 grant.

Kansas farmers cannot afford to ignore biotechnology. In the April 24 edition of *Truth About Trade and Technology*, the annual commercial value of biotech agriculture was pegged at almost \$50 billion, most of which comes from five countries: the United States (\$27.5 billion), Argentina (\$8.9 billion), China (\$3.9 billion), Canada (\$2 billion) and Brazil (\$1.6 billion). Canada has 49 biotech crops approved for commercial use, the most of any of the 18 countries that have adopted such crops.



CONTACTING THE KFB LEGAL FOUNDATION

County Farm Bureaus are the key to gaining information and requesting assistance from the Kansas Farm Bureau Legal Foundation. There are three ways to use this member service: 1) a member can have their legal issue reviewed by their county Farm Bureau board of directors. If the board agrees with the content of matter, the county FB can recommend it to the KFB Legal Foundation; 2) FB members may also contact a state staff member or district administrator to request assistance or 3) contact a member of the KFB Board of Directors.

Once the KFB Legal Foundation receives a request for assistance, it is reviewed by an advisory team who make a recommendation to the KFB Legal Foundation Board. This board will make the final determination if assistance will be provided.

County Farm Bureaus that need assistance on a legal issue are asked to fill out a request form, which includes questions such as listing state laws that may be involved, what KFB public policy refers to the issue, time line for completion and what is the intended outcome or goal for the issue.

For more information, call Terry Arthur, General Counsel, at (785) 587-6614 or visit the KFB Legal Foundation Web page at kfb.org.

Early Wheat Harvest Means More Time for Candidate Recommendations

Due to the earlier than expected Kansas wheat harvest, the VOTE FBF board has moved its endorsement decision meeting to July 7, giving county FB boards some breathing room in making their candidate recommendations. The new deadline for submitting County FB candidate recommendations is now **June 30**. County FB presidents will soon receive an update on the process to

make recommendations on candidates in your county.

County FB boards are encouraged to be as thorough as possible in explaining their recommendations. The more information the VOTE FBF board has to work with, the better informed their endorsement decisions will be.

Your KFB Governmental Relations

(GR) staff is more than willing to offer their unique insight and knowledge to assist you in making informed recommendations.

- ✓ Harry Watts, Managing Director, GR, (785) 587-6106, wattsh@kfb.org
- ✓ Brad Harrelson, State Director, GR, (785) 234-4535, harrelsonb@kfb.org
- ✓ Terry Holdren, Local Director, GR, (785) 234-4535, holdrent@kfb.org

FARM FLASHES . . .

CRP Program in 20th Year, Educational Tour Planned

■ Mark your calendar for a field tour to recognize the 20th Anniversary of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Farmers and ranchers are invited to the CRP Field Tour, June 7 in Dickinson County to learn how Kansans are restoring and enhancing the state's natural resources. The tour will feature filter strips, rare and declining habitat, contour grass strip terraces and upland bird habitat buffers. Conservation experts and landowners will share their experiences and explain the environmental benefits of these practices.

Attendees should meet at Brown Memorial Park, Mary Dell Camp area, 1½ miles south of Abilene. Registration will begin at 8:15 a.m. and buses will leave at 9 a.m. A catered tour will be available at noon. Pre-registration is needed for meal and bus arrangements. For more info, contact Betty Unterberger at (785) 539-3531 or betty.unterberger@ks.usda.gov.

Information Meetings Set on Gas Royalty Concerns

■ Private sector natural gas developers continue their efforts to extract methane gas from coal beds beneath the earth's surface in eastern Kansas. These efforts bring a host of new questions, concerns and potential business decisions for land and royalty owners. County Farm Bureaus will host a pair of public meetings to discuss organizing royalty owners. Erick Nordling, Southwest Kansas Royalty Owners Association, will be on hand to discuss the benefits of forming an association for royalty owners. In addition, Mike Irvin, Director of Kansas Farm Bureau's Legal Foundation, will discuss considerations when forming an association. Farm Bureau membership is not required to participate in these meetings.

- ✓ 7 p.m., Thursday, May 25, KSU Research & Extension Southeast Kansas unit, North 32nd Street and Pefley, Parsons
- ✓ 9:30 a.m., Friday, May 26, Celebration Hall, Franklin County Fairgrounds, 17th & Main, Ottawa.

Action Alert: Ethanol Tariffs and Outer Continental Shelf

■ The recent voluntary shift away from methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) to ethanol undertaken by U.S. gasoline refiners has put increased focus on America's ethanol and gasoline supplies. Some have suggested that the secondary tariff on imported ethanol should be removed, as least temporarily, to augment



domestic supplies. It is claimed this would lower prices at the pump. This claim is wrong. Sen. Sam Brownback has joined Farm Bureau's fight - his comments are available on the KFB Web site.

Farm Bureau members are asked to go to KFB CapWiz, kfb.org, to voice their opinion on this issue. With the summer months fast approaching and the rising costs of energy for fuel, fertilizer, crop protection tools and irrigation, Congress needs to address the energy issue now.

At this time, there are several pieces of legislation under consideration in Congress. Bipartisan support is necessary for legislation to increase the U.S. energy supply by opening the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) to deep water exploration of natural gas and oil.

Background and sample letters are available on the KFB Web site, kfb.org.

Pumping Water: Learn the Efficient Way

■ Producers who are interested in solar water pumping systems should plan to attend a workshop on June 17-18 in Paonia, Col. Hosted by the Solar Energy International (SEI), this two-day workshop will cover the nuts and bolts of designing and installing solar water pumping systems. Attendees will also learn about PV modules, system sizing, component selection, pump comparisons, information on trackers and other associated equipment. Classroom theory will be complemented with laboratory exercises on pump rebuilding. This workshop will help farmers and ranchers gain competency in cost efficient water pumping for home-scale applications, such as water storage, or work in the industry. For more info, go to solarenergy.org and click on "workshops" or call (970) 963-8855.

KFB Learns More about Threat of Pandemic Influenza

■ Staff members from Kansas Farm Bureau took the time to learn more about the potential impact bird flu might have on Kansas and the agriculture industry. KFB Executive Director/CEO Dan Yunk and 8th District Administrator Dale Maneth attended a seminar on avian flu in domestic fowl/game birds on May 9 in Great Bend.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Kansas Adjutant General's Department hosted a series of pandemic influenza symposiums across the state to address pandemic influenza preparedness. The meetings were designed to help improve awareness about pandemic influenza and to share information about the specific roles and responsibilities for the various critical sectors that will be involved in the pandemic response.

KFB learned more about pandemic influenza planning and preparedness issues and concerns that would arise in the event of a pandemic. For more info, contact KDHE at (785) 296-7032 or swenger@kdhe.state.ks.us.

Skin Analyzer Available to Educate FB Members

■ Kansas Farm Bureau has purchased a new Glow-Essence Skin Analyzer – a unique machine that utilizes black-light blue lamp technology to help identify various skin conditions. The machine does not screen for or predict skin cancer but can reveal otherwise invisible skin damage caused by sun exposure. The KFB state women's committee will display the analyzer during the Kansas State Fair in September and the KFB Annual Meeting in November. For more info, go to kfb.org/women or contact Serita Blankenship at (785) 587-6000.

Kansas Farm Bureau
CALENDAR

May 22
KFB Foundations Invitational Golf Classic, Hutchinson

May 26
Century Farm applications due

Kansas Farm Bureau Program Rewards Diligent Members

Two county Farm Bureau members received one-thousand dollars each as a reward for going above and beyond the call of duty to protect their farms. Fred Leck, Thayer, received \$1,000 from Kansas Farm Bureau for information leading to the arrest and felony conviction of cattle rustling on his ranch. Virgil Cox, Thayer, was also rewarded for his assistance in helping arrest persons responsible for the robbery of a home on his property in December 2003.


Farm Bureau members in Kansas are entitled to a KFB Reward Program sign and stickers for their farms and ranches. If any person assists with the conviction of a felony on Farm Bureau member's property, they will receive a \$1,000 cash award. The metal signs and stickers are available through county FB offices.

Neosho County FB president Paul Alford presented the checks to Leck and Cox earlier this month.

The reward offer is made pursuant to the Kansas Farm Bureau Reward Program and is controlled by the terms of that program. Persons having such information should contact their county Sheriff's office.



COLLEGIATE FARM BUREAU. Seven members of the charter Collegiate Farm Bureau at Fort Scott Community College, along with their advisor Ryan Edgecomb, recently traveled to Syracuse and Scott City for an agriculture tour. Collegiate FB members made all the contacts and arrangements and toured seven facilities over the weekend including Premier Feedlot, Bos Technical Research Center, High Plains Calf Ranch, Frontier Dairy, Southwestern Dairy, Crist Feedlot and the Beef Belt Feeder, a beef and buffalo feedlot. The members also visited with local farmers, bankers and entrepreneurs about the area and opportunities in agriculture. Pictured is Collegiate FB member and chapter president Trent Weatherly at the High Plains Calf Ranch in Syracuse. These students are members of the Bourbon County Farm Bureau.



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Farm Leader Letter is a publication of Kansas Farm Bureau and is published twice each month.

Kansas Farm Bureau represents grassroots agriculture. Established in 1919, this non-profit advocacy organization supports farm families who earn their living in a changing industry.

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