



Kansans Seriously Affected by Drought: Financial Assistance is On the Way

The Kansas Department of Agriculture is offering information about a USDA-funded livestock assistance grant program to offset the impact of lost forage production, increased feed and water costs and relocation expenses due to drought in a letter mailed to livestock owners in 24 counties.

“We wanted to get the application form and a letter of explanation to livestock producers as quickly as we could, so we opted for direct mail,” Kansas Department of Agriculture Secretary Adrian Polansky said. “With harvest and fall planting well under way, we’ve made the process a little easier by mailing the information.”

The letter explains what livestock owners must do to get a share of the

\$948,511 awarded to Kansas from \$50 million that U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns announced would be available to help livestock producers in drought-plagued areas of the country who have suffered forage production losses, increased feed and water costs or livestock relocation expenses.

Livestock owners in 24 Kansas counties that reached extreme or exceptional drought status on the U.S. Drought Monitor between March 7 and August 31, 2006, are eligible to participate in the program. Those counties are Bourbon, Cherokee, Cheyenne, Clark, Comanche, Crawford, Finney, Ford, Grant, Gray, Greeley, Hamilton, Haskell, Kearny, Labette, Meade, Morton, Rawlins,

Scott, Seward, Stanton, Stevens, Wallace and Wichita.

Eligible livestock includes mature beef cattle, sheep, goats and other mature livestock on forage between March 7 and May 1, 2006. Other mature animals on forage, such as horses, bison and llamas, also are eligible for the program.

The application form must be completed and returned to the Kansas Department of Agriculture by October 31. Applications will then be processed and funds dispersed based on the number of livestock submitted to participate in the program. The amount of aid a livestock owner may receive can not exceed the amount of actual losses as a result of drought in 2006, nor can it exceed \$10,000.

Mark Your Calendar – Kansas Farm Bureau Television Documentary to Air Next Month

The slow, steady movement of population away from rural Kansas and its impact on those who remain will be explored in a statewide half-hour television documentary, to air this fall on broadcast and cable TV across Kansas and nationwide on RFD-TV.

“Rural Kansas: Heritage Lost?” features the real-life, heartfelt thoughts and stories of many active Farm Bureau members in Kansas who speak eloquently and thoughtfully about the effect of shifting populations on their lives and their communities.

“This is an important story for all Kansans, regardless of where they live,” said Mike Matson, KFB Director of Communications & Public Relations, who wrote, produced and directed the documentary. “Those who are building their lives in agriculture or rural Kansas feel passionately about that decision. This

documentary will allow others to connect, or in some cases re-connect with that choice.”

One way or another, every policy issue dealt with in Farm Bureau is impacted by these demographic trends. This is the broad umbrella under which everything else stands. “Rural Kansas: Heritage Lost?” airs on:

KPTS-TV (Channel 8, Wichita)
Thursday, November 9 at 7:00 p.m. CST

KTWU-TV (Channel 11, Topeka)
Sunday, November 26 at 12:30 p.m. & 9:30 p.m. CST

RFD-TV
DIRECTV (Channel 379)
Dish Network (Channel 9409)
Tuesday, November 14 at 5:30 p.m. CST

Cox Cable
Kansas Now 22 (Channel 22)
Saturday, November 11 at 8:00 a.m. CST



RURAL COMMUNITY ASSETS. One of the components of “Rural Kansas: Heritage Lost?” documents a volunteered effort in Oberlin to identify and market their town’s assets. Leaders of the Decatur County Farm Bureau are among the community leaders who recognized that in the face of dwindling rural populations — complacency is the enemy.

Farmers and Ranchers May Not Appreciate EPA's New Air Quality Standards

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently announced the strongest national air quality standards in the country's history. These National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) address fine and coarse particle pollution, also known as particulate matter (i.e. dust, soot and particles too small to see).

The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) filed extensive comments with the Environmental Protection Agency earlier this year documenting the view that there is no basis in the law or science for regulating coarse particulate matter from agricultural sources. AFBF's initial concern with the rule is that it apparently does not include an exclusion for agricultural sources, as was proposed earlier by EPA and supported by AFBF.

"This is a lengthy, complex rule," says AFBF President Bob Stallman. "We will study it thoroughly over the coming weeks to evaluate its impact on our members and on farms and ranches in general. Because agriculture will be included in the rule, it will be all the more critical to examine the breadth of the rule, and the monitoring provisions that will follow, to gauge their impact on farming and ranching operations."

KFB Offers Comment on State Dam Safety Inspections

In testimony to the Special Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources, KFB Water Resources Specialist Kent Askren offered potential concern regarding the increasing financial liability associated with dam ownership and operation.

Askren stated that many dam owners simply cannot afford the costs associated with hazard classification increases and face the very real possibility of being put out of business due to the action of their downstream neighbors.

Kansas Farm Bureau believes every regulated dam in Kansas should have a breach inundation zone map that accurately depicts the potential flood

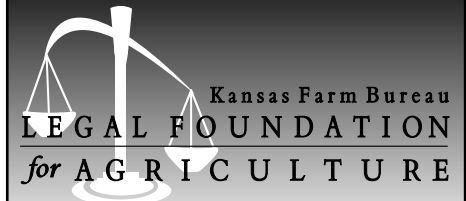
The final action significantly strengthens EPA's previous daily fine particle standard by nearly 50 percent. EPA selected the levels for the final NAAQS after reviewing thousands of peer-reviewed scientific studies about the effects of particle pollution on public health and welfare. The agency's science and policy review documents were examined by external scientific advisors and the public. EPA held three public hearings and received more than 120,000 written comments.

"This rule can essentially regulate dust emissions from farms and ranches," says KFB Natural Resources Director Steve Swaffar. "I am in the process of reviewing the final rule further to see if there is any flexibility. My first impression is that it may limit agriculture and should EPA or third parties choose to force this it could be expensive for our industry."

States must meet the revised standards by 2015, with a possible extension to 2020, depending on local conditions and the availability of controls. EPA will also issue guidance on monitoring fine and coarse particle pollution. For more information, contact Swaffar at (785) 234-4535.

area in the event of dam failure. All land within the breach zone should have this information attached to the property deed. With such information, the downstream risk would be clearly identified and the liability could be equitably assigned.

Some funds have already been appropriated to help cost share inundation mapping. Askren stated Farm Bureau would like to see more funds appropriated for this effort in addition to appropriating state funds to upgrade existing dams in need of reclassification. Otherwise the expense of doing so may bankrupt dam owners who were placed in this predicament as the result of action by others.



Kansas Fence Laws: Problems and Solutions

Trespassing Livestock: Who is responsible? What duty is owed? What can you do if your neighbor's livestock gets out and damages your property? Our state law encourages the owners of livestock that trespass on others property to make amends as quickly as possible.

Kansas Statutes provide that it is unlawful for any domestic animal (primarily livestock) to run at large. So it is important for livestock owners to exercise "reasonable care" and "reasonable precautions" in confining their stock in order to avoid civil liability. Consequently, livestock owners can be responsible for damage caused by their animals if they are negligent in the care and custody of their livestock.

The courts have examined a number of factors in determining whether an individual has been negligent in the care and custody of their animals. Some of the key points the courts have used to determine liability are as follows:

- ✓ The quality of the owner's fence
- ✓ Whether the landowners animals are habitually found roaming outside of their confines
- ✓ Whether the owner caused the animals to escape
- ✓ Whether the owner adequately feeds the livestock and
- ✓ Whether the owner makes immediate attempts to recapture the animals.

Clearly, there may be other factors that enter into the situation that may cause the livestock owner to be negligent for damages caused by their animals running at large.

Finally, if livestock do trespass and cause damage to another's property, the aggrieved landowner may retain these animals until he/she is paid for said damages. In essence, this gives the injured party a possessory lien against the livestock. If an injured party does retain trespassing livestock, he will need to do it properly. They will need to feed and care for the animals just as if they were their own. In addition, they will need to notify the owner (within 24 hours if known) and authorities as soon as possible. Once notice is given, the person taking the livestock cannot retain them for more than five days without commencing legal action for recovery of the damages caused by the animals.

For more information, contact Mike Irvin, Director of the KFB Legal Foundation at (785) 587-6621 or Terry Arthur, General Counsel, KFB. Please visit the KFB Legal Foundation Web site, kfb.org/kfblegalfoundation. For specific situations be sure to consult a lawyer.

FARM FLASHES . . .

County Presidents Conference Offers Training for FB Leaders

■ The 2006 KFB County Presidents Conference will offer not only the presidents of the 105 county Farm Bureaus a leadership training day but is expanding this year to include county vice presidents. The conference is set for Nov. 16 at the Holiday Inn, Manhattan.

Highlights of the conference include a three-hour interactive workshop entitled "Tough Questions in Tough Situations" led by Jolene Brown, CSP. This session will arm FB leaders with the skills to respond to questions facing agriculture by the media and others in today's society. Workshops throughout the afternoon will focus on the financial and employment aspects of county FB management, tips on how to lead a productive board meeting and strategies to surface agriculture leaders. A panel discussion of successful FB programs will be a popular option.

Attendees will be invited to a Pre-Conference Tour and Mixer Kick-Off on Nov. 15.

Community Wind Workshop Available in Four Locations

■ Renewable energy groups in Kansas have come together to offer support and educate folks about community wind. The Kansas Community Wind Workshop is set for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Oct. 31 at Cloud County Community College (CCCC), Concordia. There are also three Kan-ed ITV remote sites available including Butler Community College, Colby Community College and Dodge City Community College. Lunch and breaks are provided with a registration fee of \$10 at each of the four sites. Speakers include Jim Ploger, Kansas Energy Office and Lisa Daniels, Executive Director of Windustry as well as several panel discussions with wind companies representatives and legislative leaders. The program concludes with a tour of CCCC Wind Energy Technology Program.

Sponsors of the event are Cloud County Community College, KFB Legal Foundation, Kansas Farmers Union, The Kansas Rural Center, Kansas Energy Office and Wind Powering America. To register or for more info, contact Marilyn Martin at (800) 729-5101, ext. 201 or mmartin@cloud.edu.

Sheep and Goat Producers Should Contact KFB

■ The Kansas Farm Bureau Board of Directors have recognized a need for a new agriculture advisory committee within Farm Bureau's grassroots policy development system.

Last month, the KFB Board moved to create a sheep and goat ag advisory committee for producers who manage these species and allow them a specific voice within the KFB policy process. Each year, ag advisory committees surface potential policy changes and forward their recommendations to the KFB Board of Directors. Farm Bureau is looking to fill these district volunteer committee positions and have surfaced several leaders in the sheep and goat industry. Nominations and appointments will be made this fall with the goal of a committee meeting in January to elect a chair.

If you would like to serve or learn more about KFB's sheep and goat ag advisory committee, contact KFB Commodities Director Mark Nelson at (785) 587-6103.

USDA Extends CRP Emergency Grazing

■ Kansas livestock producers may continue emergency grazing on Conservation Reserve Program acres until November 10. Kansas counties approved for emergency grazing are Cherokee, Cheyenne, Clark, Comanche, Decatur, Edwards, Ellis, Ellsworth, Finney, Ford, Gove, Graham, Grant, Gray, Greeley, Hamilton, Haskell, Hodgeman, Kearny, Lane, Lincoln, Logan, Meade, Morton, Ness, Osborne, Rawlins, Rush, Russell, Scott, Seward, Sheridan, Sherman, Stanton, Stevens, Thomas, Trego, Wallace, Wichita, Wilson and Woodson.

CRP rental payments will be reduced by only 10 percent instead of the standard 25 percent on CRP lands that are grazed in 2006 under the emergency provisions. Farmers and ranchers can graze no more than 75 percent of the stocking rate. They also can only graze 75 percent of a field or contiguous field that is enrolled for wildlife habitat. CRP participants must have a modified conservation plan approved by the FSA County Committee.

For more information, go to: disaster.fsa.usda.gov.

Voice of Agriculture: On the Radio for One Year and Going Strong

■ It was one year ago (Oct. 3, 2005) that Kansas Farm Bureau's *Voice of Agriculture* twice-daily radio program debuted on 40 radio stations across the state. The premise is simple. Just give us your attention once each day and two minutes later, you'll be smarter about agriculture and rural living.

"I never envisioned this program would have the kind of impact that it had," said Steve Baccus, a farmer from Ottawa County, who serves as president of Kansas Farm Bureau. "People talk about it all over the state. Everywhere I go, I hear people comment positively about the program and I'm really excited that Kansas Farm Bureau is involved in such a wonderful effort."

The segments feature topical subjects impacting Farm Bureau, agriculture and rural communities and include "sound bites" from Farm Bureau members and other experts who effectively communicate the importance, meaning and deeply-held emotional connection associated with agriculture and rural living.

For a list of radio stations that carry the *Voice of Agriculture*, visit kfb.org.

Kansas Farm Bureau CALENDAR

November 1

YF&R Contest Applications due
(Achievement Award, Discussion Meet, Excellence in Ag)

November 16

KFB Presidents Conference,
Manhattan

November 17-18


KFB Annual Meeting, Manhattan



THANK YOU TO YOUTH. During the Kansas Jr. Livestock Show in Wichita, the state Young Farmer & Rancher committee hosted the second annual YF&R exhibitor breakfast for all 4-H and FFA exhibitors, parents, judging team members and guests. This goodwill event allowed Farm Bureau's young farm and ranch members to visit one-on-one with nearly 800 future industry leaders and serve them a hearty breakfast. Pictured is 8th District YF&R Committee Representative Jenny Betschart serving sausage to a 4-H member.



PASTURE LABELING. Barton County Farm Bureau recognized a need that their members have and created a pasture labeling program to fill the gap. The purpose of this grassroots effort is twofold — public safety and producer protection. The signs are intended to facilitate rapid response to landowners in the event livestock are roaming outside of fenced areas. This in turn helps ensure such livestock are quickly rounded up, enhancing driver safety and protecting a livestock producer's investment.



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Financial Assistance is on the Way**

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