



A Publication of Kansas Farm Bureau

FB Delegates Back Farm Bill, Address Energy Concerns

NASHVILLE – Delegates at the 87th American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting cast a resounding vote in support of extending the economic safety net of the current farm bill until a new world trade agreement is reached to increase foreign market access for U.S. farmers and ranchers.

Nine active farmer/rancher members of Farm Bureau in Kansas represented the interests of their peers and colleagues across the state.

“Our members continue to say they are willing to negotiate about lower domestic support payments if, in exchange, they can secure increased opportunities to sell their products overseas,” explained AFBF President Bob Stallman. “However, as this vote shows, they are not willing to unilaterally disarm. Any revamping of the farm safety net must be done in concert with a WTO agreement that reduces tariffs and grants market access, increases tariff rate quotas, reduces trade-distorting domestic

supports and eliminates export subsidies.”

AFBF also reaffirmed its opposition to farm payment limits and the delegates supported creation of “an energy escalator clause” in farm policy due to the impact higher fuel and fertilizer costs are having on farm profitability.

A number of policy proposals approved by voting members of Kansas Farm Bureau were adopted in Nashville, including language related to national farm policy, energy, risk management/crop insurance and environmental concerns.

“Farm Bureau members in Kansas can be proud of their organization’s efforts,” said Steve Baccus, an Ottawa County grain producer who serves as president of Kansas Farm Bureau. “The policy proposals discussed and adopted in Nashville signal a ‘real-world’ awareness of agriculture’s position in global marketplace.”

In other business, the delegates re-elected Stallman, a cattle and

rice producer from Columbus, Texas, to a fourth two-year term as president and re-elected Steve Appel, a wheat and barley producer from Dusty, Wash., as vice president. Kansas Farm Bureau president Baccus was re-elected to the American Farm Bureau Federation board of directors.



2006 AFBF Annual Convention

Future Challenges for Agriculture Identified by FB

A Farm Bureau member from Kansas played a key role in a new report released by AFBF at this year’s annual meeting. This report said

American agriculture 15 years from now will be a vital, more profitable sector of the economy, successfully competing with foreign commodities.

These assessments were part of a two-year study by members of Farm Bureau’s Making American Agriculture Productive and Profitable Committee (MAAPP). Phillips County farmer and Hays banker Alan States (pictured) was among the 23 farmers and ranchers on the MAAPP committee who were asked to develop a vision of what American agriculture should look like in 2019, when Farm Bureau celebrates its 100th anniversary.



Alan States



DELEGATES AT WORK. The nine-member Kansas Farm Bureau farmer/rancher voting delegate contingent was situated on the front row of the 440-member American Farm Bureau Federation delegate floor in Nashville. The voting delegates

serve on the KFB Resolutions Committee and represent the interests of Farm Bureau members throughout Kansas. **Front row (l-r)** Gay Beth Moore, Haskell County (Vice Chair); Marjorie Ensminger, Allen County (3rd District); Edie Dahlsten, McPherson County (RC Chair & KFB VP); Steve Baccus, Ottawa County (KFB president). **Back row (l-r)** DeVon Benfer, Cloud County (5th District); Roger Griffin, Rice County (7th District); Craig Allison, Nemaha County (1st District); Vic Krainbill, Nemaha County (1st District) and Jim Sipes, Stanton County (9th District).

Flinchbaugh Honored by American Farm Bureau

The American Farm Bureau gave its highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award, to House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) and Barry Flinchbaugh, Kansas State University ag economist. The AFBF Distinguished Service Award honors individuals who have devoted their careers to serving the agricultural industry.

During the awards presentation, AFBF President Bob Stallman thanked Flinchbaugh for his dedication to educating many students and the public about the importance of agriculture.

In addition to his undergraduate teaching and extension responsibilities, Flinchbaugh has contributed to agriculture by being a conduit between the agricultural economics profession, national political leaders and agricultural leaders for public policy development.

In nominating Flinchbaugh, Kansas Farm Bureau noted his ability to bridge the gap between politics and economics may be unparalleled in the agricultural economics profession.



SHAPING FARM POLICY. Some of Flinchbaugh's biggest contributions during a 42-year career have come in providing input for the last four farm bills. He has been part of a national team that surveyed farmers about their preferences for policy options; defined and clarified key policy issues as they emerged; testified before Congress and spoken to numerous organizations about forming farm policy.

State Farm Bureaus Honored for Excellence

State Farm Bureaus were recently recognized for implementing stellar programs serving Farm Bureau members in 2005. American Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Stallman and AFBF Vice President Steve Appel presented the awards during AFBF's 87th annual meeting in Nashville.

Kansas received Awards for Excellence in four program areas:

- ✓ Ag education and promotion
- ✓ Leadership development
- ✓ Policy implementation
- ✓ Public relations

HOW SWEET IT WAS.

Stafford County FB member Brian Dunn talked his way through Rounds 1 and 2 and



into the coveted Sweet 16 of the national Young Farmer & Rancher Discussion Meet contest during the AFBF annual meeting, Nashville. Reno County FB member Chad Basinger represented Kansas in the YF&R Achievement Award contest and Barton County FB member Jeanne Wedd competed in the national Excellence in Agriculture award competition.

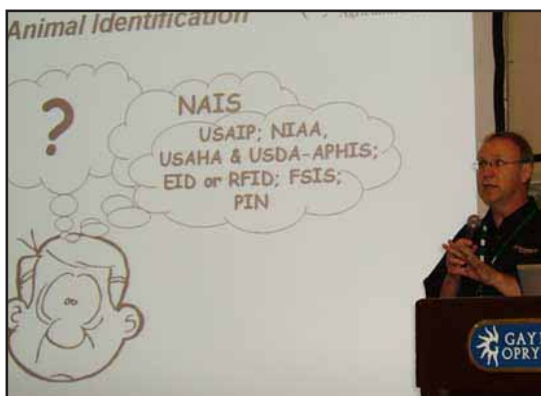
2006 Session Begins, School Finances Still Short

Earlier this month, Governor Sebelius delivered her State of the State address and offered several key themes in addition to school finance, including creating new jobs through the elimination of taxes on new business machinery and equipment, a new Kansas mentoring initiative headed by former K-State head football coach Bill Snyder, increasing health insurance coverage especially for children 0-5 years of age and assisting seniors in filling out their prescription drug cards.

The Legislative Division of Post Audit released its study of the state's school finance formula and recommended the Kansas Legislature increase school spending between \$316 and \$700 million. KFB is concerned about the low enrollment, transportation and vocational education weightings, which the study determined have been over funded. The study will likely ignite the debate over funding for rural schools and the potential for consolidation of small schools. KFB will continue to monitor closely.

Eminent domain reform is a priority issue for Kansas Farm Bureau. A Senate Bill and a Resolution to amend the state Constitution were introduced and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Bills introduced in the House have been referred to the Committee on Federal and State Affairs. KFB is supportive of reform especially on the transfer of private property for economic development purposes and is working with leadership to solve this issue.

KFB Governmental Relations staff is monitoring other issues including irrigation transition, tax reform and renewable and alternative fuels.



STANDING ROOM ONLY. A large crowd was on hand during KFB's Beef Verification Solution exhibitor seminar held in conjunction with the 87th AFBF Annual Meeting. In addition, more than 5,000 visitors attended the Farm Bureau Showcase, where BVS Team members Mark Nelson, Nancy Brown and Craig Cooper presented information on Farm Bureau's animal identification program. For more information, visit agsolusa.com.

FARM FLASHES . . .

USDA Rural Development Awards Dollars for Eco Devo

■ Three Kansas recipients will receive \$1.6 million to support economic development efforts across Kansas. The projects were granted funds from USDA Rural Development's *Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant Program*, of which USDA offers a zero-interest loan to a local rural utility cooperative. The cooperative is expected to pass the proceeds on to a local business to finance job creation efforts. Kansas projects include:

- ✓ Heartland Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Neosho County, \$458,000
- ✓ Sumner-Cowley Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Cowley County, \$558,000
- ✓ Blue Valley Telecommunications, Inc.; Pottawatomie County, \$560,000

For more information, go to rurdev.usda.gov/ks.

Brunkows Represent YF&Rs on National Level

■ Pottawatomie County FB members Glenn and Jennifer Brunkow are wrapping up a three-year term on the American Farm Bureau Young Farmer & Rancher committee. During their term, the two have attended meetings across the country, hosted national YF&R competitions, worked with the Harvest for All food-drive program and organized the national YF&R leadership conference. Brunkows will complete their term at the end of February after coordinating the national YF&R leadership conference in Des Moines, IA.

Pictured is Glenn Brunkow serving Farm Bureau members during the AFB Foundation for Agriculture ice cream social, held at the AFBF convention in Nashville



Governor Sebelius to Lead Governors' Ethanol Coalition

■ Governor Kathleen Sebelius' efforts to create jobs and reduce the United States' dependence on foreign oil will continue in her new role as chair of the 32-member Governor's Ethanol Coalition.

Sebelius says the nation is on track to replace five percent of the nation's transportation fuel with domestically produced ethanol and biodiesel by 2012 and says the coalition will continue to promote expanding ethanol production and will work with Congress to provide adequate funding for the federal government's biofuels research.

KSU Hosts Irrigation Conference in Late February

■ With skyrocketing energy prices, irrigated producers can expect tremendous economic pressures in 2006. Producers who want to combat this issue should make plans to attend the Central Plains Irrigation Conference, Feb. 21-22 at the City Limits Convention Center, Colby.

For details on the two-day conference, go to oznet.ksu.edu/sdi/REvents/cpia.html

Douglas County FB Builds Relationships

■ Members of the Douglas County Farm Bureau board held a successful legislative dinner with eight state and national legislators and elected county officials to discuss farm and ranch issues.

State representatives talked about issues on the forefront of this year's Legislative Session in Topeka, including education K-12, eminent domain, wind energy, methamphetamines and alternative energy. County officials shared thoughts on county/city annexation, agriculture use building permits and the five-acre exemption.

KFB President Steve Baccus also attended the Jan. 3 dinner, along with KFB Governmental Relations State Director Brad Harrelson; 2nd District Administrator Les Regier and KFB 2nd District Board Member George Pretz.

KFB Enhances Relationships with Campaign School

■ If you know of a candidate for office or are considering running for an elected position yourself, make plans to attend Kansas Farm Bureau's first *Campaign Management Training Seminar*, March 14-15 in Manhattan. The seminar is open to candidates, campaign managers and candidates' spouses and focuses specifically on the areas of organization, issue management, image construction, fundraising, compliance with reporting standards, media training and identifying and targeting your specific voting demographic.

For more info, contact Tanner Lucas at (785) 587-6110 or lucast@kfb.org.

Hall of Fame Pitcher Spokesperson for ASAP

■ Nolan Ryan, Hall of Fame pitcher, rancher and Farm Bureau member, has agreed to serve as the official spokesperson for Agricultural Safety Awareness Week, March 5-11. The theme of the national farm safety awareness week is *Step Up to The Plate for Farm Safety*. Go to AgSafetyNow.com for updated materials, including public service announcements and fact sheets.

Kansas Farm Bureau CALENDAR

January 27-29

YF&R Leaders Conference, Hutchinson

January 29-February 4

Food Check-out Week

February 1

KFB County Capitol Experience "Train the Trainer," Topeka

February 2

Day at the Statehouse, Topeka

February 6-8

KFB Ag Advisory Committee Meeting



ORGANIZED TACK. Cowley County FB member Carl Seeliger was featured among 28 entries in the AFBF Farmer Idea Exchange in Nashville. Seeliger developed a vertical rack called "Saddle Up" for saddles and tack that fits neatly in the back of a trailer or storage space. More than 5,000 Farm Bureau members from across the country visited the Farm Bureau Showcase during the AFBF convention.



THE SHOVER. Hats off to Scott County FB member Clint Dearden for participating in the Farm Bureau Showcase during the AFBF annual meeting, Nashville. Dearden was among 28 other producers featured for his farm tool – the shover, which is a combination of a shovel and a hammer that can be used together or separately.



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