



The shared office of Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company and Kiowa Co. Farm Bureau is well on its way to being completed in Greensburg. The group is hoping for a winter open house once all the finishing touches are complete.

The building is the first commercial construction started in Greensburg since the May 4 tornado leveled most of the town.

Learning, networking and fun at YF&R Conference

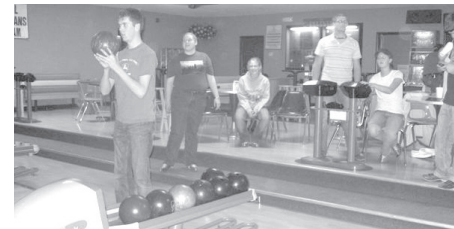
More than 300 young farmers and ranchers are expected at the KFB YF&R Leaders Conference Jan. 25-27 at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita.

Themed *Building on our Kansas Roots*, the event promises timely and interesting topics, and provides time for networking with other young leaders from across the state.

General Session speaker, Mark Mayfield, will use his own Kansas roots and a little

Leadership development for women's chairs

Current county Farm Bureau women's chairs or designees are encouraged to attend *Planting Seeds to Harvest Leaders*, a leadership development opportunity brought to you by the state committee of Farm Bureau Women. The program is scheduled for April 9-10 in Manhattan. Topics include communicating the ag story, influencing the political process, developing leaders, farm safety and ag education.



The K-State Collegiate FB Chapter hosted a social at Zuckey Bowl, Manhattan, for Collegiate members who attended the Presidents Conference and Annual Meeting. There are 173 members in the six Collegiate KFB chapters.



humor, to teach five behaviors that will help balance your life by learning how to deal with life's biggest stressor, people.

Other workshops and discussion topics include managing change, Kansas water, livestock profitability, ag transportation, women managing the farm, estate planning and a Capitol Hill update.

A complete agenda is available at www.kfb.org/yfr/conference.htm or through your county Farm Bureau office.

Registration is \$65 per person. Interested parties can apply for a grant from the KFB Foundation for Agriculture to help sponsor attendance. Grant applications are due by Dec. 14 and can be found at www.kfb.org/foundationforagriculture/foundationgrantapplication.htm.

The conference will run concurrently with the County Professionals Leadership Conference (CPLC). Look for additional information in February.

KFB Calendar

January 4
YF&R contest applications due

January 13-16
AFBF Annual Meeting, New Orleans

January 25-27
YF&R Leaders Conference, Wichita

Kansas Farm Bureau

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Farm Leader Letter is a publication of Kansas Farm Bureau. It is received in the homes of nearly 40,000 farmers and ranchers who are dedicated to agriculture and rural Kansas.

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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Farm Leader letter

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Sunflower coal plant decision – your stake

Nothing in recent memory has vaulted to the top of the policy agenda in Topeka as fast as the recent decision by Kansas Department of Health & Environment Secretary Roderick Bremby to deny a construction permit application from Hays-based Sunflower Electric Power for a pair of proposed coal-fired electricity generating plants in Finney County.

The decision runs counter to a host of long-standing Farm Bureau member-generated policy positions including those dealing with rural revitalization, electrical generation capacity, energy and the state's competitive advantage.

Sunflower will seek relief in each of the three branches of state government. They have filed an administrative appeal within the executive branch and are exploring new legislation to overturn the decision. But the route most observers believe will be the one that sticks is Sunflower's decision to seek a judicial remedy.

Kansas Farm Bureau/KLA urge logic and common sense

Kansas Farm Bureau and Kansas Livestock Association are urging USDA to get its ducks in a row over the implementation of the Livestock Compensation Program and the Livestock Indemnity Program which allow producers to seek compensation for losses in weather-related disasters between Jan. 2, 2005 and Feb. 28, 2007.

KFB and KLA have identified four major hangups under which claims are being denied: Loss of forage/feed did not occur in the same county as the livestock were located; feedyard

Kansas Farm Bureau is closely monitoring the action and is prepared to defend the interests of its members.

Above and beyond the FB policy positions, lies a concern over the potential precedent in play here. Whether it's for a coal-fired power plant or a new dairy, the fact that an industry can meet or exceed all the technical, scientific and citing requirements for a permit under state and federal regulation and still be denied, should cause many industries in Kansas to sit up and take notice.

This specific decision was based on carbon emissions; however the next decision could be based on dust, odor, or livestock management, since carbon dioxide is currently unregulated as a pollutant at the state or federal level. Clearly, such decisions would not be in the best interest of farmers, ranchers or industries that rely on crop-based products such as ethanol and biodiesel.

claims; those who have contracted for feeding services; and the eligible party did not own livestock on the date of the disaster.

"We ask you to adopt common sense interpretations that reflect realistic applications of the law," wrote KFB president Steve Baccus and KLA president David Cross, in a joint letter to acting USDA Secretary Chuck Conner. "There is nothing in the law passed by Congress that seeks to unreasonably limit its application. We urge you to implement the law with compassion, logic and a sense of urgency."


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IGUCAs may now have a review panel

The latest recommendations of the interim legislative Energy, Natural Resources and Environment Committee would require any new Intensive Groundwater Use Control Areas (IGUCA) to include a review panel.

Such a panel would consist of two individuals appointed by the President of the Senate, two by the Speaker of the House, two by Chief Engineer (see sidebar for more information on the newly named Chief Engineer) and one by the Groundwater Management District. All appointed individuals would come from the affected area.

The panel would review all of the information and make recommendations to the Chief Engineer. The Chief would take the recommendations into consideration but he would ultimately establish the IGUCA boundaries and any corrective controls needed. The same, or a similar, panel would also serve to review the effectiveness of the IGUCA every seven years.

These are simply recommendations for draft legislation and will serve as a starting point for discussion and debate. With Kansas Farm Bureau's new policy on IGUCAs, the Natural Resources division will be involved in discussions to shape legislation that fits the policy adopted by FB members.

The flavor of Farm Bureau

More than 5,000 Farm Bureau members from around the country are expected to travel to New Orleans for the AFBF annual convention, Jan. 13-16. The elected Kansas Farm Bureau voting delegates are President Steve Baccus, Vice President Edie Dahlsten, Craig Allison (District 1), Marjorie Ensminger (District 3), Paul Drummond (District 5), James Schmidt (District 7) and Gay Beth Moore (District 9).



For more information, visit www.fb.org.

The special interim committee on Energy, Natural Resources and Environment met during the week of Nov. 5 to finalize its IGUCA recommendations.

Barfield named chief engineer

Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Adrian Polansky announced this month the appointment of David Barfield as chief engineer of the division of water resources.

Barfield has been with the division for more than 20 years and has considerable experience with water right permitting, interstate water compacts and dam safety. Considering Barfield's history within the division, immediate or drastic changes in management philosophy shouldn't be expected. KFB staff has worked extensively with Barfield in the past and expect a good working relationship in the future.

Barfield steps into one of the most difficult jobs within Kansas state government at one of the most critical times for water resources management for agriculture production. Management of the Ogallala aquifer, application of Intensive Groundwater Use Control Areas (IGUCA) and effective implementation of voluntary water right retirement programs are front and center issues. KFB members have financial stakes in all of these issues. KFB's Natural Resources staff will be meeting with Barfield and other key staff in the near future to ensure member interests and investments are understood and protected.

Resolutions are online

Log on today to view the resolutions approved by voting delegates during KFB's Annual Meeting.

You can select portions of the book by category at www.kfb.org/government/2008resolutions.htm

Farm flashes

BVS partners with Colorado FB

KFB's *Agriculture Solutions* has partnered with the Colorado Farm Bureau to expand the *Beef Verification Solution* to Colorado cattle producers. Other state FBs partnered with the program include Nebraska, Oklahoma and Mississippi. *BVS* is a Farm Bureau member-driven, confidential and comprehensive livestock information management program utilizing International Standards Organization-compliant, U.S. Department of Agriculture-approved radio frequency identification technology and a privately managed database. Interested producers should contact www.agsolusa.com/bvs.



KFB Women have successful auction

Kansas Farm Bureau's Women's Committee raised \$3,541 through their Silent Benefit Auction during the KFB Annual Meeting this month. The funds will benefit the KFB Foundations. A total of \$39,420 has been raised since the inception of the benefit auction in 1995.

Dodge supports national YF&R

State winners of the YF&R Discussion Meet, Achievement Award and Excellence in Agriculture Contest were selected at the KFB Annual Meeting this month. They will move onto national competition at AFBF's 89th annual convention in New Orleans Jan. 13-16. The national winner of the Achievement Award will win a 2008 Dodge Ram 3500, the top Discussion Meet winner will receive a 2008 Dodge Ram 2500 and the winner of the Excellence in Agriculture Award will receive a 2008 Dodge Ram 1500.

The 'carbon economy' and you

K-State will host a forum titled "Agriculture's Role in the New Carbon Economy," Dec. 17-18 in Manhattan. Producers who are interested in the potential role of agriculture in the emerging carbon credit markets, and how federal and state policy on climate change may affect them, should attend. For more information, go to http://soilcarboncenter.k-state.edu/Fall_Forum_CASMGS.html

Cows and Christmas, a perfect match

Looking for a fun and educational stocking stuffer this holiday season? Order the KFB-produced, content-driven childrens book, *Milk Comes From a Cow?* for only \$8 a copy (this includes shipping, handling and sales tax) at www.kfb.org/ageducation/milk.htm.



Ag Census headed your way

The 2007 Census of Agriculture will arrive in January. Your input can help influence decisions and community development, funding availability, farm policy and other key issues. No matter how large or small your operation – and no matter what, where or how you farm – your response matters. Visit www.agcensus.usda.gov for more information.

Do-It-Yourself programs now online

The KFB Safety and Agriculture Education division developed 22 Do-It-Yourself programs for county Farm Bureau volunteers eager to demonstrate or enhance current presentation skills. Program scripts, materials and demonstration ideas are combined for ease of use. These will be available on www.kfb.org starting in December.



Wind Energy Development

Have you been approached with a wind energy easement or lease? Keep in mind, it is a legally binding agreement with long-term consequences. Therefore, you need to carefully review and understand the document before executing it. The following are a few questions you should ask yourself when analyzing any wind agreement:

- How much land will be needed and for how long?
- How much will I be paid and when will I receive payments?
- Are the proposed payments adequate for the property rights you are giving up? Will the payments be adequate in the future?
- What rights will I be giving up? What activities can I continue?
- Are there any tax consequences?
- Is the developer really planning to develop your property or just trying to tie it up?
- Does the developer have adequate liability insurance?
- Can the developer sell or assign their interest without your consent?
- Can the developer terminate the agreement at any time?
- What are your rights to terminate?
- What happens to wind energy structures if the agreement is terminated?

Wind energy agreements offer opportunity to diversify your farm income, but they present numerous legal issues that you must carefully consider before entering. Consult with an attorney for specific questions.

Driving member savings

In 2007, FB members of Kansas enjoyed \$875,000 in savings as part of the General Motors Private Offer.

"The General Motors benefit has been tremendously popular with our members," Angie Sutton, KFB member relations and promotions director said. "I receive at least two or three calls from members each week thanking KFB for offering this money-saving benefit."



For complete details and exclusions, please visit www.gmfleet.com/kfb or see dealer for details on how you can save. For information on other benefits and services Farm Bureau members of Kansas receive, visit www.kfb.org/memberbenefits.

Your 'voice' on the radio

Heard twice daily, six days a week on 40 radio stations statewide, KFB's 2-minute *Voice of Agriculture* features the voices of FB members who share their passion for agriculture and rural living. FB members heard recently include:

- Carolyn States, Ellis Co. and Karla Fleming, Jewell Co., on the importance to farm families of thriving small rural communities
- Jim Elder, Pottawatomie Co. and Kevin Alpers, Stafford Co., on what it means to pass along the family farm to the next generation
- Dale Helwig and Stacy Coissart on a Cherokee Co. FB effort to match up high school kids with agribusiness professionals for a day

Visit www.kfb.org for a complete list of radio stations which air the *Voice of Agriculture*.

