



A Publication of Kansas Farm Bureau

Farm Bureau Faithful Flock to the 88th Annual Meeting

In a speech kicking off the 88th annual meeting of Kansas Farm Bureau, attended by farmers and ranchers from all 105 counties in the state, KFB President Steve Baccus, outlined a host of real-world opportunities involving four major agricultural sectors: trade, bioscience, rural development and energy.

"In life and in farming, timing is everything," Baccus said. "The timing could not be better for agriculture to step up and make significant contributions to the development and implementation of new energy solutions. Our nation and the world are looking for new energy solutions. Energy, economic development, national security and environmental quality are all inextricably linked."

Baccus delivered his remarks during the opening general session of Kansas Farm Bureau's annual meeting in Manhattan, appropriately themed, "Leading Agriculture's Future." His address came a day before farmer/rancher voting delegates adopted their organization's policy roadmap for the

coming year in Topeka and Washington.

A highlight of the KFB policy initiative is a federal proposal that will provide a revenue safety net while allowing total planting flexibility. The proposal encourages Congress to think in terms of a philosophical shift from a price-based farm program to one that would be revenue-based.

"This type of initiative revolutionizes the farm program because farmers and geographic regions will no longer be trapped into dependence upon the five major program crops," Baccus said. "As



WORD FROM WASHINGTON. A tradition of the KFB annual meeting is hearing from lawmakers and an update of Washington, D.C. politics. This year there was plenty about the change in leadership in both the House and Senate. Kansas Senator Sam Brownback and Congressman Jerry Moran (pictured) addressed the delegates, stressing new and exciting agriculture opportunities, especially in the energy industry and the need for a civil discourse between Republicans and Democrats.

individual entrepreneurs, we'll have the ability to plant onions, rice, wheat, potatoes, kumquats — whatever turns a profit — knowing that our financial success lies in our own hands."

All of the policy initiatives considered by the Farm Bureau voting delegates were forwarded by Kansas Farm Bureau's 12-member Resolutions Committee, comprised of active farmer/rancher FB members, representing geographic districts. The package of local, state and national public policy initiatives, guidelines and principles results from a year-long grassroots process.

Baccus was re-elected by unanimous acclamation to a two-year term as KFB president. Re-elected to the KFB board of directors were George Pretz, Miami County (2nd District), Bob Voegele, Cowley County (4th District), Jerry McReynolds, Rooks County (6th District), John Stegman, Ford County (8th District) and Linda Franklin, Sherman County (10th District).

Two Earn Farm Bureau's Distinguished Service to Ag

Lois Schlickau (pictured left) longtime cattle producer from Haven with more than 50 years serving agriculture and Carolyn McGinn, 31st District state senator and a strong Farm Bureau advocate for property rights and environmental issues from Sedgwick (pictured right) received the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award from President Steve Baccus.



County Farm Bureaus Honored at KFB Annual Meeting

Congratulations to county Farm Bureaus who received recognition during the Kansas Farm Bureau annual meeting for achieving standards of excellence.

The KFB Awards for Excellence honored 20 counties for activities in the five program areas: member services, policy implementation, education and agricultural promotion, leadership development and public relations and advertising. County organizations competed in four membership categories representing similar-sized county organizations.

Four counties received the organizations highest honor in the Awards for Excellence, designed to recognize volunteer farmer/rancher commitment to agriculture and rural communities.

Outstanding award winners are:

- Johnson County, Division I
- Harvey County, Division II
- Stafford County, Division III
- Norton County, Division IV

Congratulations to county Farm Bureaus in the five program areas:



Lois Moss, Johnson County Farm Bureau (left) accepted the Outstanding Award for Excellence, Division I, from KFB President Steve Baccus.



Neal Williams, Harvey County Farm Bureau (left) accepted the Outstanding Award for Excellence, Division II, from KFB President Steve Baccus.

Member Services

- Cowley County, Division I
- Barton County, Division II
- Stafford County, Division III
- Norton County, Division IV

Policy Implementation

- Johnson County, Division I
- Harvey County, Division II
- Ottawa County, Division III
- Stanton County, Division IV

Education and Ag Promotion

- Johnson County, Division I
- Kingman County, Division II
- Republic County, Division III
- Norton County, Division IV

Leadership Development

- Riley County, Division I
- Saline County, Division II
- Stafford County, Division III
- Sherman County, Division IV

Public Relations and Advertising

- Sedgwick County, Division I
- Finney County, Division II
- Anderson County, Division III
- Decatur County, Division IV



Marlyn Spare, Stafford County Farm Bureau (left), accepted the Outstanding Award for Excellence, Division III, from KFB President Steve Baccus.



Chris Tanner (left) and Patsy Maddy (middle), accepted the Outstanding Award for Excellence, Division IV, from KFB President Steve Baccus.

F B Contest Winners Announced

Young farm and ranch members were recognized during contests held in conjunction with the Kansas Farm Bureau annual meeting. Members of the state YF&R committee emceed the program and awarded honors in the following categories.

Jeanne Wedd, Barton County, was recognized as the winner of the YF&R Achievement Award. This recognizes outstanding young farmers and ranchers for their accomplishments in progressive farm management. Wedd manages a diversified farming and ranching operation raising wheat, milo, sunflowers, soybeans, alfalfa, cane feed, silage fee and registered Angus bulls and heifers. She also manages a 50-head commercial cow calf operation. Wedd takes care of all management decisions, field work and book work. She says her operation is unique in several ways.

Nick Levendofsky, Republic County, won first place in the Discussion Meet. Levendofsky grew up on a diversified crop and livestock farm. He is currently enrolled at Kansas State University, majoring in agricultural communications and journalism. The discussion meet provides a forum for young leaders to develop and practice fundamental problem solving skills. Contestants are judged on their ability to express ideas, answer questions and propose possible solutions to agricultural problems during a panel discussion.

Stacey Forshee, Cloud County was recognized for her outstanding contributions of service to agriculture when she was awarded the YF&R Excellence in Agriculture Award. This award recognizes young farmers and ranchers who are active not only in Farm Bureau but their community and other agriculture and service organizations as well. Forshee is actively involved with production agriculture alongside her husband, David. They manage a diversified farming operation including wheat, corn, milo, soybeans and sunflowers and also manage a cow calf operation.

As YF&R winners, they each received \$500 from Dodge Trucks, \$200 from Kansas Farm Bureau, a free copy of Farm Files software, expense-paid trips to the AFBF meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah and the YF&R Leaders Conference in Wichita.

FARM FLASHES . . .

What does the November 7 Election Mean for Farm Bureau?

■ As politicians in Washington, DC continue to mull over the ramifications of the November 7 election, it's also worth taking a look at how some of the Kansas races played out.

Democratic Gov. Kathleen Sebelius defeated State Senator Jim Barnett for a second term at the helm of state government. Incumbent Attorney General Phill Kline lost to Democratic challenger Paul Morrison. Farm Bureau looks forward to working with the new attorney general.

Democrats picked up four seats in the Kansas House of Representatives, but that body kept its solid Republican majority. There were no Kansas Senate races; that entire body is up for reelection in 2008.

Six first-time House candidates who were endorsed by Kansas Farm Bureau won their races: Richard Proehl, Jeff King, Jeff Colyer, Rocky Fund, Joe Patton and former Morris County Farm Bureau President Tom Moxley. King and Moxley attended KFB's "Campaign School."

Some of the issues that are likely to come up in 2007 include: expanding gaming to provide property tax relief; a graduated drivers license program that bases licensing on experience rather than age; and continued discussion of both eminent domain and city/county consolidation. KFB will work to keep the farm permit for 14-year-old drivers and to protect farmers and ranchers' property rights.

86 Percent Of KFB-endorsed Candidates Elected

■ Farm Bureau's grassroots-driven political advocacy system racks up another banner year. 86 percent of the candidates endorsed by the KFB PAC VOTE FBF (Voters Organized To Elect Farm Bureau Friends) were elected to state and national office. Since it's inception a dozen years ago, VOTE FBF's success rate has consistently ranked at the top of trade group/advocacy organizations in Kansas, due in no small measure to Farm Bureau's consensus-driven grassroots approach.

Commodity Futures Market Tour of Chicago Scheduled

■ Farm Bureau members will have an opportunity to visit the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and the Chicago Board of Trade on March 22 -23, 2007. Sponsored by Kansas Farm Bureau this opportunity to see and experience the two largest agricultural futures markets in the United States is limited to the first 20 Farm Bureau members.

Tours of each market will be intermixed with educational seminars from market participants, regulators and commodity analysts. Tour cost is \$280. This includes lodging for two nights in downtown Chicago and two group meals. Additional costs to each tour participant include: transportation to and from Chicago, additional meals and any other miscellaneous expense.

For more information contact Mark Nelson at (785) 587-6103 or neslonm@kfb.org.



Thanking Them With Pizza

■ The Harper County Farm Bureau board of directors acknowledged and thanked the volunteer firemen for their efforts throughout the year, especially for fighting field and pasture fires when it was so hot and dry this past summer. Board members delivered pizzas to the Attica, Anthony and Harper volunteer fire departments.



Pictured here is Harper County board member Sid Burkholder (center) handing a pizza to Dean Hufford, volunteer firefighter with the Harper Volunteer Fire Department. Immediately to the right of Burkholder, in the striped shirt, is Harper County President James Mathes.

EQIP Cutoff Date Announced by NRCS

■ The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced December 15, as the cutoff date for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications.

In addition to the regular EQIP, producers across the state may apply for financial assistance through the Ground and Surface Water Conservation provisions of EQIP. Assistance to a producer will be provided only to facilitate a conservation practice that results in a net savings in ground and/or surface water resources.

NRCS will provide EQIP financial assistance for eligible applications located within the Quick Response Areas where producers convert irrigated cropland to nonirrigated cropland or grassland. When farmers or ranchers apply for 2007 EQIP funding, they will be required to fill out a Kansas EQIP self-assessment worksheet.

Agricultural producers interested in participating in EQIP can apply at any time at their United States Department of Agriculture Service Center at their local NRCS office. Information about 2007 EQIP is available on the Web site at <http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/2007> or is available at your local USDA Service Center from the NRCS or conservation district staff.



Kansas Farm Bureau CALENDAR

November 29

New County Professional Staff Orientation, Manhattan

December 1

KFB Foundation Grant Activity Report deadline

December 15

KFB Foundation Grant Application deadline

January 5


YF&R Contest Deadline (Grassroots Award, Marketing Contest, Talent Find, Collegiate Discussion Meet)



STEWARDSHIP SKILLS. An Osborne County agricultural family was recognized for their outstanding contributions to conservation and stewardship of the land when they were awarded the '06 KFB Natural Resources award. Jay and Stacey Carswell operate a diversified livestock and cropping operation consisting of cattle, sheep, swine, wheat, milo, soybeans and alfalfa. Their cropping operation is 100 percent no-till. The Carswells say that since implementing a no-till system, they rely on soil sampling to determine fertility needs and have seen a reduced need for using other chemicals. Pictured above are Jay and son, Jayson, and daughter, Alyssa.



TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS. The delegates spent Saturday taking care of debate and approval of policy positions. The results will be the roadmap for the organization in '07 in Topeka, and will be a part of the larger national debate in Salt Lake City, Utah in January as the American Farm Bureau sets its policy positions. Pictured here, John Kuszmaul, Kingman County, addresses the Farm Bureau delegation on the "driver's licenses" issue. Voting delegates spent considerable time debating KFB's position on a proposed graduated drivers license system for the state. The proposal would likely preserve the current farm permit but create a three-tiered structure to replace the current system.



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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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