

KFB to host 'Campaign School' to build relationships with policymakers

All the hard work and grassroots energy that goes into KFB's annual policy development process assume that somewhere, at some time, an elected public office holder will vote on a public policy that impacts your life.

That's the driving force behind KFB's Campaign Management Seminar, a comprehensive 2-day hands-on effort to help candidates for public office wage a winning political campaign.

KFB hosted a similar Campaign

Management seminar in 2006 and the participants included current state Reps. Tom Moxley (Council Grove) and Jeff King (Independence) as well as Manhattan City Commissioner Bob Strawn, each of whom partially credit their election to what they learned at the KFB seminar.

The KFB Campaign Management Seminar will be held March 11-12, 2008 at KFB state headquarters in Manhattan. Registration deadline is February 29. More information and registration is available at www.kfb.org.



Kelly Muir, Beef Verification Solution Program Coordinator, talks with members of the Barber County Farm Bureau this month. BVS is a member-driven, confidential livestock information management program developed by KFB's Agriculture Solutions in conjunction with AgInfoLink, USA, a leading animal identification service provider in the United States.



The newest Collegiate Farm Bureau Chapter, Cloud County Community College, was chartered this month. Pictured here, (left to right) are chapter advisor Josh Coltrain, chapter vice president Melissa McIntyre, chapter president Kristen Harris and Cloud County FB liaison to the chapter Cathy Forshee. Other chapters in the state include community colleges in Ft. Scott, Colby, Coffeyville, Allen County, Seward County and K-State.



Johnson County Farm Bureau kicked off Farm-City Week, Nov. 16-22, by distributing KFB's children's book, "Milk Comes From a Cow," throughout the county. Volunteers gave 25 books to local schools, libraries, doctors and dentists offices. Here, the school librarian reads the book to a group of children.

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

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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*

A publication of Kansas Farm Bureau®

Water conservation program for western Kansas

A newly announced \$22.7 million conservation project from the USDA will help improve water quality and supplies in the Upper Arkansas River. The Upper Arkansas River Kansas Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) will enroll up to 20,000 acres of cropland in the program.

Kansas Farm Bureau strongly supported the program and helped get the enabling legislation passed during the 2007 Kansas legislative session. In November, KFB sent a letter to USDA Acting Secretary Chuck Conner encouraging approval of the program.

"This program will provide our State Conservation Commission with a critical tool in its efforts to reduce consumptive water use in the High Plains aquifer," wrote KFB president Steve Baccus. "The program will assist the state to extend the useable life of the aquifer for all

beneficial water uses."

Sign up of eligible cropland within Barton, Edwards, Finney, Ford, Gray, Hamilton, Kearny, Pawnee, Rice and Stafford counties will run through June 30, 2008.

"This voluntary program is a sorely needed addition for reducing the consumptive use of water in the High Plains aquifer in southwestern Kansas," says Steve Swaffar, KFB's natural resources director. "As our members face rising input costs, reduced well capacities, and regulatory pressure to reduce water use, voluntary programs like CREP need to be developed and implemented to provide a safety valve for the economic and regulatory pressures building in the region."

Sign up will begin Dec. 20 through your local FSA office

KFB to represent members' interest in Sunflower denial case

Kansas Farm Bureau will represent the interests of its members in the Kansas Supreme Court with the filing of a 'friend of the court' brief in the appeal by Hays-based Sunflower Electric Power over the decision by state regulators to deny construction of a pair of power plants in southwest Kansas.

Kansas Department of Health & Environment Secretary Roderick Bremby denied the permit for Sunflower's proposal to build two 700-megawatt coal-fired generators in Finney County. In doing so, Bremby cited the plants' potential to emit carbon dioxide that would be expected to contribute to climate change.

The decision to deny construction 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.

KFB is also concerned about the potential precedent set when an industry meets or exceeds all government regulatory mandates and is still denied a construction permit.

The state's high court, which recently agreed to take up the three legal appeals, is expected to hear arguments by March.

KFB
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Your policy recommendations move to nat'l level

Farm Bureau's grassroots policy development process moved to the national level this week when KFB President Steve Baccus represented your member-adopted policies during American Farm Bureau Federation's Resolutions Committee meeting in Washington, D.C.

Recommendations submitted from KFB included support for active participation in discussions regarding legislation on new carbon markets, allowing production on acres enrolled

New trucking reg interpretation will impact farmers

The Kansas Corporation Commission, a state agency that regulates trucking and utilities, intends soon to begin enforcing what most in the ag community believe is an incorrect interpretation of case law in a manner which would define the first leg of transportation of a commodity (from the field to either a country or terminal elevator) as interstate, rather than intrastate commerce and the agriculture exemption is lost.

The justification is that likely and ultimately, that grain will be shipped out of state and that even though the producer no longer retains ownership or control of the commodity, it is

U.S-Peru Free-Trade Agreement moves to president

This month, the U.S. Senate voted overwhelmingly to approve a free-trade agreement with Peru. Since the House previously approved the agreement, it will now be sent to the president to sign into law. The agreement will benefit all of U.S. agriculture.

In October, KFB sent a letter to Kansas Senator Pat Roberts supporting the agreement.

"The U.S.-Peru TPA is an important step in expanding opportunities and accessing a \$705 million opportunity for increased agricultural exports," wrote KFB President Steve Baccus.

in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program where one of the goals is water conservation, and support for funding that would address severe computer issues within the USDA.

The final recommendations of AFBF's Resolutions Committee will be debated and voted on during the '08 Annual Meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation Jan. 13-16 in New Orleans.

interstate commerce.

That interstate designation makes farmers or their custom harvest crews, who are hauling their own commodities from the field to the elevator subject to all federal motor carrier regulations, including U.S. Department of Transportation registration and a host of safety and record-keeping requirements. Not to mention the out-of-pocket expense the farmer will incur in meeting the new regulation.

Kansas Farm Bureau obviously disagrees with this interpretation and is exploring potential federal and state solutions.

Be heard on the Clean Water Act

Congress is considering two bills (H.R. 2421 and S. 1870) that would not just protect water, but regulate land use and common farming practice. These bills could bring ditches, culverts, or gullies under Federal permitting requirements. They could also affect a farmer's ability to do routine tasks like harrowing or applying pesticides.

The legislation would greatly expand the regulatory reach of the Clean Water Act to the detriment of U.S. economic growth and agricultural operations. Go to www.kfb.org and click on "Action Alert" to send a message to your House member.

CapWiz™
Legislative Action Center

Farm flashes

Member benefit from Valvoline

FB members can take advantage of a special offer from Valvoline. Purchase Valvoline branded lubricants at NAPA and receive a 15% rebate. All products must be purchased between Nov. 1- Dec. 31, 2007. All claims must be received by Jan. 15, 2008. For more information, contact your county Farm Bureau or go to www.kfb.org/memberbenefits. Valvoline sponsors the state and AFBF YF&R leadership programs.

Women Managing the Farm

The 2008 Women Managing the Farm Conference is scheduled Feb. 8-9 at the Grand Prairie Hotel and Conference Center in Hutchinson. Titled "Celebrating Ag Women," the conference is designed for women who are sharing agribusiness decisions with their farmer or rancher husband and for women who have either inherited - or are purchasing - a farm or acreage or choosing agriculture as a career. Registration information is available at www.womenmanagingthefarm.info.

Ag Technology Conference

The 11th annual Kansas Agricultural Technology Conference is Jan. 23-25 at the Holiday Inn and Conference Center in Salina. The applied workshop is designed for those who want to use or are using precision agricultural concepts in their farming and other businesses. The first day is geared toward those who may be newer to site-specific technologies. The second day focuses on "pushing the envelope" of technology with glimpses of what is new and on the horizon. The third and final day includes presentations by farmers who have had research conducted on their farms. More information can be found at www.ksagresearch.com.

Christmas is here, order now!

For only \$8 a copy (includes shipping, handling and sales tax), you can have 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 at www.kfb.org/ageducation/milk.htm.



Ag profitability conferences

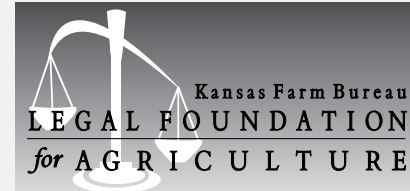
K-State Research and Extension will host a series of ag profitability conferences around the state to provide the most recent research-based economic information to agricultural producers, agribusiness owners, lenders, and others in agriculture who are interested in maximizing profits. For dates and locations go to www.agmanager.info.

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.

Hay and Grazing conference

The Kansas Hay and Grazing Conference will be Jan. 16 at KFB state headquarters in Manhattan. This is a public conference for anyone interested in livestock grazing, hay production/utilization or buying/selling of Kansas grass and hay products. It is jointly sponsored by the Kansas Forage and Grassland Council and K-State Research and Extension. For more information, call (620) 431-1530 or email kwalters@oznet.ksu.edu.



Wind Energy Development

When negotiating a wind energy agreement, it is important to consider a number of issues that are critical to the creation of an equitable agreement. Key provisions that require careful attention include the following:

- Is the agreement a lease or an easement? If an easement is involved, usually it will include turbines sites, substations, vegetation restrictions, building restrictions, transmissions and other restrictions, such as air space.
- If it is a lease, normally it will run 20 years or longer for the developer to recoup their investment. Be careful of longer term commitments.
- Legal description - should be limited to only that portion that is needed.
- Compensation - define if revenue is to be an annual payment per tower, a percentage of gross proceeds, a percentage of kilowatt hours generated annually, or a flat amount annually.
- Inflationary factor - for longer agreements is an inflationary factor built into the agreement.
- Intentions of the developer concerning the use of the land? It should be limited to construction of wind energy structure uses only.
- Termination - Require removal of improvements if the agreement (by design) or developer terminates the contract.
- Insure the agreement does not violate any USDA land-use restrictions, such as CRP.

We will continue to explore this topic in the next issue.

YF&R conference approaching

Register today for KFB's 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. Workshops include managing change, Kansas water, livestock profitability, ag transportation, women managing the farm, estate planning and a Capitol Hill update.

To register, contact your county Farm Bureau. A complete agenda is available at www.kfb.org/yfr/conference.htm.

"Insight" tells your story

One of the most effective tools your farm organization uses to share your story with others is the weekly *Insight* column, made available to every news media outlet in Kansas. For nearly 30 years, KFB's John Schlageck has led readers on a journey through agriculture and rural Kansas. Recent *Insight* columns include:

- **Give Thanks**, on the special meaning of Thanksgiving found in farm homes
- **Grasp the Gold**, on the need for enhanced agricultural exports in light of expanding world population
- **Speak Up**, on the necessity of farmer/rancher input in the dialogue over black-footed ferrets and prairie dogs in northwest Kansas

If your local newspaper does not carry the Kansas Farm Bureau *Insight* column, ask them why not.

