

Breach inundation zone maps are critical

For decades reservoir structures built by Watershed Districts have been helping reduce the impact of flooding while reducing sediment load in our streams. In recent years, downstream development within the breach inundation zone of watershed reservoirs has placed some landowners in a real quandary.

“Hazard classification may increase if conditions (development) downstream of the dam within the breach inundation zone change,” says Kent Askren, KFB water resources specialist. “Should a house, highway or improvement be made which places life or property in harms way, then the dam owner is responsible for the cost of any state mandated upgrade of the dam.

This cost can be in the tens if not hundreds of thousands of dollars per structure.”

The issue is complex. Regardless of the final solution, Askren says the first step is creating maps to determine breach inundation zones.

“With the benefit of these maps, downstream landowners, county commissioners, bankers and insurance companies can make informed decisions regarding potential development,” says Askren.

Encourage your legislative leaders to fully fund and oversee the implementation of a comprehensive breach inundation zone mapping program.

New program allows 48-hour livestock trace back

Brought to you by the Kansas Animal Health Department, Locate in 48, is a new system that will allow 48-hour trace back if an animal disease outbreak were to occur. This system will help protect animals, increase consumer confidence in the nation’s food supply, better connect producers to the global marketplace and protect the Kansas

way of life, and is a perfect fit with KFB’s *Beef Verification Solution*.

“KFB’s BVS is designed to work hand-in-hand with this program,” says Mark Nelson, KFB’s commodities director.

For more information visit **Kansas. LocateIn48.com**.

Experiencing leadership

Attendees for the FB Leadership Experience from Kansas have been selected. Carol Ann Flock, Greenwood Co.; Lori Haresnape, Smith Co.; Derek Zongker, Reno Co.; Bill Luebbers, Wichita Co.; Alisa Rath, Cheyenne Co.; and Meagan Cramer, KFB communications, will build leadership skills and develop networks with other ag producers. Kansas Participants will join with 20 others from Iowa, Minnesota, New Mexico, South Dakota and Utah Farm Bureaus. It will include a week-long session in Des Moines, Iowa, a two-day state-level workshop in Manhattan and a four-day educational trip to Washington, D.C.

KFB Calendar

June 13

FB Ag Ed/Leadership Grant deadline (www.kfb.org/foundationforagriculture)

June 30

KFB Excellence in Teaching Grant deadline (www.kfb.org/foundationforagriculture)

June 27

USDA Reports Tour KC & DC Registration deadline (www.kfb.org)

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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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NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MANHATTAN KS 66502
PERMIT NO. 103

Farm Leader Letter

A publication of Kansas Farm Bureau®

Farm bill sent to President; veto expected

After nearly eight months of discussions and debate, Congress sent the \$307 billion farm bill to the President who has vowed to veto the measure. An override of that veto is likely with veto proof margins in both chambers. Your farm organization joined the American Farm Bureau Federation and over 500 agriculture, conservation, nutrition, and other industry groups in supporting the bill.

Most concerning to KFB were cuts to the commodity and crop insurance titles of the bill. While target prices and loan rates were rebalanced, the direct payment—agriculture’s only support not tied to either price or production—was cut by 2 percent in 2009, 2010 and 2011 totaling \$313 million. Through the efforts of Senator Pat Roberts, Congressman Jerry Moran and Congresswoman Nancy Boyda, direct payments were restored in years one and five of the five-year farm bill.

“We don’t like the fact that they had cuts to direct payments and cuts to federal crop insurance which are extremely important to our folks,” Baccus said. “At the same time, we’ve gone through a lengthy process of negotiations and this bill is just a compromise. We feel like under the current scenario with the current administration and the current Congress, it’s probably the best deal we could work out.”

Despite negatives of the bill, most groups concluded an extension in today’s political climate was not viable, and the bill included impressive expansions and reforms in other titles of the bill.

What’s included?

- **Conservation:** Increased funding for EQIP by \$2.4 billion and for CSP by \$1.1 billion annually expanding enrollment by 13 million acres each year. Expands opportunities for water right retirement.
- **Livestock:** Allows for the implementation of Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) that does not require additional paperwork. Creates a mechanism for state inspected meat processors to ship their products across state lines.
- **Energy:** Establishes a new, temporary production tax credit for up to \$1.01 per gallon, available through 2012 to encourage the production of cellulosic ethanol.
- **Farmer Tax Relief:** Temporary Tax Relief for Kiowa County and surrounding areas as a result of Presidential Disaster Declarations due to the Greensburg tornado and related storms. Provides landowners who incur expenses for protecting an endangered species or the habitat of an endangered species, a permanent tax deduction.
- **Rural Development:** Expands funding for small entrepreneurs in rural communities. Reforms to the Rural Utilities Service’s (RUS) broadband loan program to bring broadband Internet to more Americans.


KANSAS FARM BUREAU®
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Volume 25/Issue 10 • May 23, 2008
www.kfb.org

Good idea started, bad idea stopped

One key measure of the success of your farm organization in Topeka is by the good ideas which take hold and bad ideas which get stopped. The 2008 legislative session saw one of each.

The good idea started was a KFB member-driven effort to bring prosperity to small, rural Kansas hometowns. The newly created Kansas Commission on Rural Policy will support innovative and creative ways to foster entrepreneurship to grow existing businesses and create new ones in rural Kansas – to provide essential off-farm employment.

The group resulted from KFB member-driven policy which hones in on four basic concepts to preserve rural communities in the face of significant out migration; leadership development, wealth retention, fostering entrepreneurship and youth retention.

The bad idea stopped would have lumped farm trucks into the same category as full-time commercial, over-the-road truckers.

This categorical regulatory change would have burdened farmers and ranchers with a host of unwanted and unwarranted hoops and financial hardships, just to be able to haul grain from the field to the country elevator

KFB says no to new CDL rule implementation

The farmers and ranchers of Kansas Farm Bureau believe the current commercial driver's license exam is the best and most cost-effective method of doing business. These FB members recently submitted their opposition to the proposed rule by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration that would require nearly 120 hours of training for those engaged in custom harvesting or in cross-border activity.

"While there is merit in efforts to improve the quality of driving programs, doing so according to the terms of this new rule is arbitrary, capricious and simply not feasible in rural states like Kansas," said Steve Baccus, an Ottawa

or cattle from the home place to the local sale barn.

The effort picked up important momentum, during KFB's *Day at the Statehouse*, when farmers and ranchers were able to personalize the potential peril face-to-face with their elected lawmakers.

Once made aware by farmers and ranchers with a reasonable, common sense argument of the apples and oranges aspect of their ideas, the state government transportation regulators backed down.

Both issues show how KFB member involvement makes a difference.

Wrapping up the session

- **Energy:** KFB strongly supported clean, affordable energy and regulatory certainty for all Kansans. Unfortunately, these measures were thwarted by three Gubernatorial vetos.
- **Immigration:** KFB supported significant and reasonable immigration reform. However, a lack of a majority consensus of the legislature prevented passage of this legislation.

County farmer who serves as president of Kansas Farm Bureau. "Implementation of this rule would put Kansas, and many other states, at a competitive disadvantage because programs are unavailable to produce candidates needed to fill vacancies in our state."

Farm Bureau would like to see the rule reconsidered because there is no link between the 120-hour standard and increased safety.

This is especially true among those who have substantial experience under the current CDL exemptions

Comments were received this month and Farm Bureau will stay on top of this issue.

Farm flashes

Be a Master of agriculture

For the 10th consecutive year, Kansas Farm Bureau is accepting applications for the KFB *Masters Program*. The program provides participants an up close and personal look of Kansas farms across the state. For more information contact Charlie Sargent at (785) 587-6112 or sargents@kfb.org.

KEEPing up with energy

Ottawa Co. grain farmer and KFB President Steve Baccus was recently appointed by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius along with 19 other industry and scientific leaders to the Kansas Energy and Environmental Policy (KEEP) advisory group. KEEP will tackle the politically charged issue of reducing climate-changing carbon dioxide emissions in Kansas.



Baccus

Kansan receives nat'l scholarship

Kendra Frazier has been awarded a \$1,000 college scholarship by Dodge. Frazier is the daughter of Labette Co. FB members John and Linda Frazier. A student at Labette County High School and member of the Labette Co. FFA Chapter, Frazier plans to study at the University of Missouri-Columbia this fall. Frazier is one of 50 scholarship recipients who were awarded on behalf of Dodge dealers to FFA members who are planning to attend college and also are from Farm Bureau families.

CSP Sign-Up Extended to May 30

Producers in eligible Kansas watersheds now have two additional weeks to apply for the Conservation Security Program (CSP) with sign-up ending May 30. Go to www.kfb.org for details, and look under Natural Resources.

Ag Census: It's not too late

Farmers and ranchers still have time to complete and submit the 2007 Census of Agriculture. Conducted every five years, the agricultural census is the only source of consistent and comprehensive agricultural data for every state and county in the nation. Regardless of whether individuals are actively engaged in agriculture, everyone who received a census form is required by law to respond. For more information or assistance, call (888) 424-7828 or visit www.agcensus.usda.gov.

Remember to mitigate drift

With spring 2008 running significantly wetter than normal, growers will be pressing to plant crops, and spray weeds in a very narrow window of time. Remember to plan ahead, map sensitive crop locations around your target, know the surrounding crop condition, and give yourself time to do the job correctly. More points to ponder on drift issues this spring can be found at www.kfb.org.

Brownback continues state tour

U.S. Senator Sam Brownback (Kan.) will continue his tour of all 105 Kansas counties this month. Stops include Wed., May 28: Elkhart, Johnson City, Syracuse, Lakin, Ulysses and Hugoton; Thursday, May 29: Liberal, Meade, Sublette, Cimarron and Garden City. For specifics, visit <http://brownback.senate.gov/english/forkkansans/countiestour.cfm>.

Your free personal planning guide

The 2008 Personal Planning Guide is a free publication from the KFB Foundations that can help you quickly rate the effectiveness of your current estate plan. To get your free copy, simply call 866-506-0991.



What is an immigration "no-match" letter?

New rules adopted last year by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security gave employers 30 days to respond to a notice of a discrepancy regarding an employee's legal working status, or "no-match" letter.

The new rules were an attempt to crack down on businesses that employ undocumented workers. Penalties for failure to comply with the new rules are stiff—up to \$10,000 per violation.

So what happens if you get a Social Security Administration (SSA) "no-match" letter? Should you panic?

No. Each year employers file a Wage and Tax Statement (Form W-2) with the SSA and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to report how much they paid their employees and how much they deducted in taxes from employees' wages throughout the year. SSA sends a "no-match" letter when the names or Social Security numbers (SSNs) listed on an employer's Form W-2 do not match SSA's records. The letters purpose is to notify workers and employers of the discrepancy and to alert workers that they are not receiving proper credit for their earnings.

In the next issue of the *Farm Leader Letter*, we will continue to explore this issue. For specific situations be sure to consult an attorney. For more information, please contact Mike Irvin, Director of the KFB Legal Foundation at (785) 587-6621.

Weighing in on wheat

This month more than 60 participants spent three days checking wheat fields across the state as part of the Wheat Quality Council's annual winter wheat tour in May. Among the 60 included three KFB sponsored members: Arland and Mary Lynn Stephens from Kingman County and Martin Kerschen from Sedgwick County.

"We had buyers, merchandisers and government folks on this trip," says KFB's commodities director Mark Nelson. "They really enjoyed hearing and visiting with our members. They brought great insight to the group."

Tour participants forecast the 2008 winter wheat harvest in Kansas to top 379.1 million bushels.

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Enter to win a Dickey-john® Mini Grain Moisture Tester, valued at \$599.

Send an email or postcard with your name, membership number, phone number and the type of crops you grow/livestock you raise by June 5 to:

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The winner will be drawn June 6. For information about the tester visit www.grainger.com and search for item number 2LBB1.

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