

Early FB victory in Congress on '07 farm bill

The U.S. House Agriculture Committee subcommittee with oversight of commodity provisions in the farm bill voted June 20 to substitute FB member-approved language from the 2002 bill for a discussion draft of the legislation that was up for consideration. The subcommittee also considered and rejected several other alternative proposals for the commodity title. U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran (Kansas), ranking minority party member on the subcommittee, was one of the leading voices pushing the FB-favored policy.

"I believe the work of the subcommittee was



Moran

a step in the right direction. We reinstated the safety net of the previous farm bill that many producers are comfortable with," said Moran. "I am also pleased the subcommittee preserved the direct payment, which is the most reliable and least market-distorting part of the current safety net structure."

"It's still very early in the process and lots of things will change before we're all done," said Terry Holdren, KFB's national policy director. "This is one of the first steps in a thousand mile journey before the 2007 farm bill is finalized."

No indication yet when the full U.S. House Ag Committee will take up the measure.

2007 Farm Families of the Year selected

More than 70 families from across Kansas will be recognized by their county FBs in this year's *Farm Family of the Year* program. These families will be introduced at their county annual meeting and invited to a statewide recognition luncheon on Sept. 14. Families representing each of KFB's 10 districts have been selected and will be recognized at the KFB Annual Meeting and invited on an expense-paid agriculture tour to California in the spring of 2008.

- Jim & Julie Elder, Pottawatomie Co., District 1
- Ron & Trudy Rice, Douglas Co., District 2
- Frank & Carolyn Clubine, Allen Co., District 3
- Dennis & Suzanne Gruenbacher, Sedgwick Co., District 4
- Chris & Lisa Short, Saline Co., District 5
- Colby & Cher Greving, Phillips Co., District 6
- Kevin & Barbara Alpers, Stafford Co., District 7
- Mark & Heather Busch, Gray Co., District 8
- Clay & Nancy Scott, Stanton Co., District 9
- Tony & Anita Horinek, Thomas Co., District 10

KFB Calendar

July 10-11

Promotion & Ag Education Meeting, Cimarron

July 11-13

Resolutions Committee Meeting

July 30

KFB No-Till Conference, Osage Co.

September 5

Governor's Tour, Cheyenne Co.



David and Stacey Forshee, Cloud Co., traveled to New York City recently as part of the Provider Pals program. The program connects 5th-8th graders with rural professionals. Here, David Forshee talks with a class at Center School in New York City. More information can be found at www.providerpals.com.

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*

A publication of Kansas Farm Bureau®

Wheat harvest brings quality questions

Some Kansas wheat farmers are experiencing crop quality challenges as the '07 harvest gets underway. Geographically specific adverse weather conditions and the effects of the Easter weekend freeze are the culprits.

KFB and Farm Bureau Mutual remind producers of the following tips and procedures that apply to harvested wheat:

- Test weights from 44-54 lbs. have quality adjustment factors identified in the Special Provisions of Insurance section of the policy. These factors are used to reduce the appraised yield (i.e. the yield estimate based on the number of heads and kernels) to "production to count," which is used to calculate indemnities.
- If the local elevator discounts your wheat for low quality and/or test weight, your adjuster can use the scale sheet for proof of production and the insurance company will accept the elevator's grade/test weight measurements for calculating indemnities.

• Local elevators may have their own discount chart for low test-weight wheat. Regardless, the crop insurance policy provisions prevail. If the test weight is lower than 44 lbs., the policy allows for Reduction In Value (RIV) based on the local market price.

• Estimating the RIV largely means locating an alternative market outlet for your grain (i.e., a local feeder who will buy the rejected grain or a firm specializing in handling

damaged grain) then comparing their offer with the going price for number 1 or 2 wheat.

For example, if your wheat is rejected by the elevator but a local hog farmer will buy it for \$2.50/bushel and the local elevator price today is \$5.00, your RIV is .5 (\$2.50/\$5.00). If your wheat was appraised at 15 bushels per acre, it would be adjusted by .5 to 7.5 bushels per acre as production to count toward your indemnity.

• If your wheat is rejected by the elevator for low quality and/or test weight and you can't find an economical, alternative market outlet, your adjuster will need to measure the production (from your truck, bin or pile) and you will need to submit a sample to an official USDA Grader to determine the grade and test weight for indemnity estimating.

• If producers decide not to harvest, the adjuster will appraise the wheat in the field and apply applicable factors.

• The adjuster will explain the policy provisions as they apply to harvested and unharvested wheat. The final determination on how to harvest is made by the producer.

• Producers should not disk or destroy the crop without prior approval from the insurance carrier.

If you have specific questions, please contact your crop insurance agent.



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Chief Engineer expands IGUCA, then retires

After 24 years on the job, David Pope, Chief Engineer of the Division of Water Resources in state government, is retiring. In terms of raw government power, control and authority over how water is used in Kansas – the Chief Engineer tops the list.

“The Chief Engineer decides who receives permits to use water and administers the laws regulating its use,” said Kent Askren, KFB Water Resources Specialist. “That is especially important to agriculture since we hold the vast majority of all water rights in the state.”

Almost literally on his way out the door, Pope put in place new groundwater restrictions that will impact agriculture, by expanding the boundaries of the Pawnee Valley Intensive Groundwater Use Control Area to include parts of Hodgeman, Ness and Pawnee

Generosity hits home

Donations to the KFB Weather Recovery Fund have flowed steadily since the May 4-5 tornadoes, high winds and flooding which wreaked havoc throughout Kansas – destroying farms, homes and uprooting lives. A dozen Kansans lost their lives due to the violent weather. Immediately after the storms, KFB established the fund, with the goal of assisting Farm Bureau members most in need.

In soliciting contributions, donors were encouraged to designate a particular county, area or type of need. A committee of Farm Bureau leaders and key professional staff has established guidelines for disbursement of the donations. The committee’s goal was to create a fair and equitable disbursement framework, reflective of the grassroots structure of the organization:

1. Farm Bureau members in Barton, Edwards, Kiowa, Ottawa, Pratt and Stafford counties are eligible.

counties. The IGUCA now encompasses a larger portion of the drainage basin of the Pawnee River, Buckner Creek and Sawlog Creek located in Hodgeman, Ness and Pawnee counties. Previously its boundaries did not extend beyond Pawnee County.

The Division of Water Resources is contained with the Kansas Department of Agriculture, so filling the vacancy falls to KDA Secretary Adrian Polansky. Since Polansky serves at the pleasure of Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, it’s a safe bet the Governor’s office will have some input. Polansky has appointed DWR engineer David Barfield as Acting Chief Engineer.

Read more about Pope’s departure and what it means to you, in KFB Water Resources Specialist Kent Askren’s blog at www.kfb.org.

2. The funds will be distributed to the County FB Boards of Directors in each of the six counties. They will determine how best to assist affected members within their county, subject to the following:
 - a. 75% must be distributed to agricultural producers in the county. (Approximately this percentage of receipts have specified their donations be used for agricultural producers.
 - b. 25% can be used wherever the County FB Boards of Directors feel would be best for their counties. (Some counties advanced their own funds during the emergency, and could reimburse themselves out of this fund.)
3. Each of the six affected counties will receive a percentage of the fund based upon claims submitted by agricultural producers to Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company in each county, compared to claims in all six counties for the period of May 4-5.
4. There will be two disbursements (July and October 2007).

Weather Recovery Fund

If you'd like to help, send donations to:

KFB Weather Recovery Fund
ATT’N: Accounting Department
2627 KFB Plaza
Manhattan, KS 66503

or donate securely at www.kfb.org/kfbweatherfund.

Farm flashes

No-Till Workshop

The always popular KFB No-Till Workshop sponsored by KFB and No-Till on the Plains Inc. is July 31 at Osage City High School, 420 S 5th Street, Osage City. The workshop showcases masters of no-till farm practices and offers expert advice and unique Q&A opportunities for attendees. Register at www.kfb.org/naturalresources/notill07.htm.

Emergency loans through FSA

FSA is making emergency loans available to help qualified producers recover from production and physical losses due to freezing weather April 4-10 and May 4-11 tornado, strong storms and flooding. For questions on eligibility, contact your local Farm Service Agency office.

Farm safety is important to everyone

KFB’s Farm Safety Division will have a booth at the Four State Farm Show in Pittsburg, July 20-22. They will use the 25-acre farm show to highlight safety to older Kansas farmers. Already this year, 11 farmers, ranging in age from 46 to 83, have been killed in farm accidents. Farm safety rule #1: slow down.

FSA county committee nominations

Farmer and rancher candidate nominations are open for local Farm Service Agency county committees. The nomination period continues through Aug. 1. Elections take place this fall, with newly elected committee members taking office Jan. 1, 2008. FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms.

Recognize your local ag leaders

Do you know a FB member who has shown outstanding leadership and service to Kansas agriculture? If so, please consider nominating them for KFB and AFBF Distinguished Service to Agriculture Awards. Nominations must be submitted to state headquarters by county FBs July 20. Awards will be presented at the KFB Annual Meeting in November. For an application form, contact your county FB or go to www.kfb.org/counties/distinguished.htm.

KFB Farmer Idea Exchange

AFBF is now offering the 2008 Farmer Idea Exchange Contest. The contest is designed to surface inventions, equipment modifications, innovative crops, marketing techniques, management systems and farming practices developed by farmers and ranchers. Up to 15 ideas from around the country will be selected to display their winning idea as part of the 2008 AFBF Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, Jan. 13-14, 2008. To enter, visit www.kfb.org, click on the Programs link and choose Idea Exchanges. Applications must be received by Sept. 7.

YF&R photo contest

The Kansas Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers are introducing a statewide photo contest for Farm Bureau members in Kansas of any age. The contest will feature two categories: Life on the Farm and Kids & Critters. The top three entries from each division will be displayed at the KFB Annual Meeting in November. Attendees will choose the People’s Choice winner by voting on their favorite photo. Winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony on Nov. 9. For a complete list of rules and entry forms, log on to www.kfb.org/photocontest. The deadline for all entries is Sept. 14.



AFBF in prairie dog debate

Last February, the Forest Guardians and other environmental activist groups filed a lawsuit challenging the U.S. Department of Interior’s 2004 decision not to list the Black-tailed Prairie Dog as “threatened.” This suit contends U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) should have placed the prairie dog under the protection of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The suit was filed in the U.S. Federal District Court in Denver, Colo. seeking an order for the USFWS to take action to protect this species.

In August 2004, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined the Black-tailed prairie dog was not likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future and did not meet the ESA definition of “threatened.” Consequently, the Black-tailed prairie dog was removed as a candidate for listing under the ESA.

The historic range of the Black-tailed prairie dog included parts of 11 states, Canada and Mexico. Today the species are present in 10 states including Kansas. In 2004, the USFWS estimated the range of the prairie dogs occupied habitat to be 1,842,000 acres.

At the urging of KFB and other state FBs, the American Farm Bureau Federation filed a motion to intervene in this lawsuit. AFBF will support the government’s decision not to list the Black-tailed prairie dog as a threatened or endangered species under the ESA.

KFB Annual Meeting

Make plans now to attend the 89th *Kansas Farm Bureau Annual Meeting*, Nov. 9-10 in Manhattan.

County FB presidents and vice presidents will participate in a day-long leadership training including a seminar from national speaker Kevin Eickenberry on Nov. 8. Workshops focus on the skills needed to successfully lead a county FB.

The convention will begin Fri., Nov. 9 with workshops that will bring attendees up-to-speed on the latest information in agriculture and prepare them for the delegate session. Nationally known speaker Chad Hymas will kick-off the day. KFB President Steve Baccus and Don Macke, rural development leader, will headline the General Session. YF&R contests will be held throughout the day. The annual Recognition and Awards Banquet and Program will be held at the K-State Student Union with caucuses beginning at 9 p.m. The Voting Delegate Session begins promptly at 8 a.m. Sat., Nov. 10. For more information, contact KFB Member Relations at (785) 587-6122 or email memberbenefits@kfb.org. All attendees will need to register this year through their county FB coordinator.

www.kfb.org

Kansas Farm Bureau’s website has been restructured, redesigned and streamlined. Check out the new blog section. Current topics include rural development, water regulation and KFB’s *Masters Program*. During wheat harvest, log on for daily updates from Kansas Wheat.

Visit the new KFB Market Watch, which allows FB members to create your own portfolio and track your commodities. It also contains weather, futures, agriculture and market news.

