

Helping hands from across the country

The deadly tornadoes, high winds and flooding in Kansas May 4-5 affected many Farm Bureau families of Kansas. Help from across the country, including donations to the KFB Weather Recovery Fund from individuals in Iowa, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Nebraska, California, Michigan and Missouri will help in the recovery effort.

State Farm Bureaus contributing to the fund include Nebraska Farm Bureau,

KFB members participate in multi-state leadership program

Five FB members of Kansas attended the first of three learning opportunities in the Farm Bureau Leadership Experience program June 25-29 in West Des Moines, Iowa. Barb Schlesener, Dickinson Co.; Brett Skillman, Coffey Co.; Brandi Bray, Republic Co.; Dana Pieper, Rooks Co.; and Pam Dankenbring, KFB 5th District Administrator participated in this five-day session. Highlights included understanding controversial issues like animal welfare, building bridges with consumers, utilizing risk management tools and developing and

Illinois Farm Bureau and South Carolina Farm Bureau. Donations from Calhoun and Williamsburg County FBs in South Carolina were also received.

If you'd like to help, send donations to: KFB Weather Recovery Fund
ATT'N: Accounting Department
2627 KFB Plaza
Manhattan, KS 66503

Donations are also accepted securely at www.kfb.org/kfbweatherfund.

delivering a positive message for agriculture.

The FB Leadership Experience is designed for emerging county Farm Bureau leaders with the potential for providing exceptional leadership in their county and state. Participants are from Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, South Dakota and Utah. The Kansas group convened July 11-12 in Manhattan for a two-day, state-level session and will travel to Washington, D.C., Sept. 10-13 for their final session.

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Brett Skillman, Coffey Co., presents at the Farm Bureau Leadership Experience in West Des Moines, Iowa. Five Farm Bureau members of Kansas attended the program.

KFB Calendar

July 31
KFB No-Till Conference, Osage Co.

August 13-14
Resolutions Committee meeting

September 4
State Committee of FB Women

September 5
Governor's Tour, Cheyenne Co.

September 7-16
Kansas State Fair

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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®

Mother Nature leaves another calling card

2007 is shaping up in farm country to be the one that will be remembered for its weather disasters. The latest calling card from Mother Nature involved major flood damage in southeast and east-central Kansas. Some areas were deluged with up to two feet of rainfall, which caused destruction of crops as well as damage to homes and equipment.

"We're not going to have corn or beans in the bottom ground. It's all been flooded out and it's all gone," says Frank Clubine, Allen Co. FB president. "I've seen so much pain and agony as we try to recover and there are some farmers that are not going to make it – especially with three years of drought and the prospect of no fall crops this year."

Seventeen Kansas counties received federal disaster declarations. KFB worked with our partners in state and federal government to ensure they had a complete and accurate assessment of the extent of farm damage.

The 2007 severe weather challenges started with a New Year's Eve blizzard and ice storm in northwest Kansas. That was followed by the

Governor acts to maintain harvest fuel supply

In an effort to avoid fuel supply disruptions, Gov. Kathleen Sebelius has lifted certain safety restrictions on motor carriers making fuel deliveries. Storms on May 5 caused serious damage at the Magellan oil terminal in Great Bend, while recent flooding in southeast Kansas forced the shutdown of the Coffeyville Resources refinery.



Glendolyn Neely, daughter of Mark and Dorothy Neely, 2006 Neosho County Farm Bureau Family of the Year, stands in what should be the front lawn of the family home between Erie and Chanute. The Neelys live about a quarter mile from the Neosho River, one of many southeast Kansas rivers which flooded their banks, inundating adjacent farmland.

Easter weekend hard freeze, which put a severe crimp in wheat quality and yields. In early May, killer tornadoes, high winds and flooding inundated a swath of central and southwest-central Kansas.

These disruptions have come at a time when fuel demand has increased due to summer travel and the wheat harvest. As a result, tanker trucks have encountered longer wait times at loading terminals, making it difficult for many to make deliveries while staying within limits on operator hours. The order is effective for 30 days and covers about 50 western Kansas counties.

KFB
KANSAS FARM BUREAU
The Voice of Agriculture®

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Lower Republican pumping restrictions lifted

For the first time in more than five years, irrigators in the Lower Republican River basin have been given the go ahead to fully exercise their water rights. Acting Chief Engineer David Barfield made the announcement June 26. At least for the time being, the pumping ban is being lifted.

Minimum Desirable Streamflow (MDS) legislation was passed in the early 1980s establishing target flow goals at 33 locations on 23 Kansas streams. When flows in these streams fall below the established threshold, restrictions may be imposed upon water-rights holders having a water right priority subsequent to April 12, 1984.

Since 1992, this has become the norm for

Stay ahead of COOL, look into BVS program

Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) may take effect on or before the scheduled date of Sept. 30, 2008. USDA has reopened the comment period to allow industry input and possibly revise some of the provisions in the rule. Comments can be submitted until Aug. 20 at www.regulations.gov.

Producers interested in staying ahead of a possible mandatory requirement should look into the *Beef Verification Solution*. The program offers customized, information management solutions that enable beef producers to collect individual animal information, connect to other segments of the livestock industry, comply with

KFB urges KDOT to use common sense

Hamilton County farmers were recently saved from a few less headaches during harvest thanks in part to KFB's Governmental Relations staff. KFB was alerted to the Kansas Department of Transportation plan to close 19 miles of Highway 27 to one lane in order to resurface the road. The work was planned to last for a week or more smack in the middle of harvest. KFB's GR staff contacted Kansas Secretary of Transportation Deb Miller, who facilitated a

the holders of some 177 water rights in Clay, Cloud, Jewell, Republic and Washington counties due to historic low flows in the Republican River primarily caused by over-development in upstream states and ongoing drought conditions.

Lifting the restrictions, even if only temporarily, is a welcome relief to producers in these counties. It provides them an opportunity to utilize their water rights and finally see some return on their investments.

Hopefully, efforts to bring upstream states into compliance with Interstate Compact Agreements and enhanced storage capabilities being studied will help reduce the occurrence of MDS administration in Kansas.

regulatory identification programs and improve their livestock operations.



"While we don't know if COOL will become mandatory, enrolling in the BVS Program this year is a smart management decision," says Mark Nelson, KFB director of commodities. "By enrolling in BVS and our Process Verified Program now, producers can put dollars in their pocket by taking advantage of the premiums available for source and age-verified cattle and if it becomes necessary, our program can also help them be COOL or even NAIS compliant."

Visit www.agsolusa.com to learn more.

delay in the project. It will now start when most of the wheat in the area is harvested.

"Cooperation and communication with KDOT, the Secretary and the contractor was key," Brad Harrelson, KFB's state GR director said. "We were pleased Sec. Miller recognizes the vital importance of wheat harvest in Kansas and took the initiative to avert potentially long delays when every minute counts."

Farm flashes

No-Till Workshop in Osage County

KFB's 6th annual No-Till Workshop is July 31 in Osage City. The host for this year's workshop is Thompson Farms. Participants will get a first-hand look at some of the Thompson's fields and discuss the family decisions they make about long-term crop rotations, stacking rotations, double cropping and chemical/fertilizer decisions. The afternoon session will feature speakers who will share their expertise on various aspects of no-till production. Register at www.kfb.org, or call (785) 234-4535 by July 25. The workshop is sponsored by KFB, Osage County FB and No-till on the Plains.

KARL to roast Flinchbaugh

K-State agricultural economist Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh, co-founder of the Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership (KARL) program, will be honored at a roast Nov. 16 at the Marriott Hotel in Wichita. Guests invited to speak include former USDA Secretary Dan Glickman, Sen. Pat Roberts, Sen. Sam Brownback and Gov. Kathleen Sebelius. All proceeds support the Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh Endowment Fund of the KARL program. Contact (785) 532-6300 or email Sara Wege (saraw@ksu.edu) to pre register.

Agritourism scholarships

The Agriculture Marketing Division of the Kansas Dept. of Commerce is sponsoring a \$25,000 scholarship program to help Kansas agritourism operators attend conferences, seminars and educational tours, gain first-hand information regarding techniques used by other agritourism vendors and develop nationwide industry relationships. Application deadlines are Aug. 1, 2007 and Jan. 1, 2008 and available at www.kansasagritourism.org.

Emergency Conservation Program

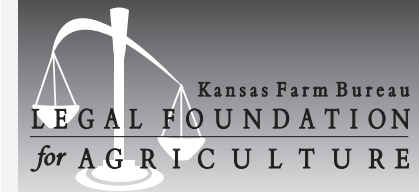
FSA will implement the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) in Barton, Clark, Comanche, Edwards, Hodgeman, Kiowa, Pratt, Saline and Stafford counties. Applications will be accepted and on-site inspections completed. Funding is not available at this time, but is expected. ECP provides emergency cost-share assistance to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters. Participants can receive cost-share assistance of up to 75 percent of the cost to implement approved emergency conservation practices including: removing debris from farmland; grading, shaping, releveling, measures; restoring permanent fences; restoring conservation structures such as windmills; and field windbreaks and farmstead shelterbelts. File at your local FSA County Office from July 23 through Aug. 22.

Alabama livestock for sale

Due to the worst drought in history in the state, Alabama beef producers are reducing or liquidating herds. Because of this reduction, Kansas producers can take advantage of purchasing genetics to add to their herds. One opportunity is the Annual Herd Builder Replacement Female Sale in Uniontown, Alabama, Aug. 31. Contact Kevan Tucker at (251) 275-3121 for more information.

K-State Beef Conference

K-State will host its first ever conference on adding value to calves Aug. 9-10 at Weber Hall on K-State's Manhattan campus. The conference will include presentations about what beef producers can do to become more efficient and get the most profit out of their businesses. Registration fees are \$150 per person and are due by Aug. 3. For more information, go to www.asi.ksu.edu/beefconference.



Eminent Domain

It is important to understand that eminent domain is not a civil action but rather a statutory process. Generally, when the government wants to take your property by eminent domain, you can expect some of the following steps to occur:

1. Initial contact by government agency to express interest in the property and/or scheduling date for appraisal or environmental assessment of the property;
2. Appraisal of the property, including improvements, by agency retained appraiser;
3. Offer to purchase the property is made to the owner;
4. Notice of public hearing to adopt a resolution to acquire property by eminent domain followed by a public hearing to adopt the resolution will be completed by the government entity;
5. Eminent domain case is filed in court and served on the property owner;
6. At the first hearing three appraisers are appointed to view and value the property;
7. The government agency pays the amount of the award, whereupon the land will vest to the condemning entity;
8. If settlement cannot be reached, trial of the eminent domain action takes place before a jury whose job it is to determine "fair market value" of the subject property.

These cases happen quickly so be sure to consult with an attorney.

Franchise tax repealed; '08 session study topics named

As of July 1, the Kansas franchise tax is history. The legislature this year repealed the levy companies pay to do business in Kansas based on a corporation's net worth. It'll mean tens of millions in savings for farms, ranches and other businesses. The repeal of the franchise tax can be traced directly to the solid working relationships FB members in Kansas have with their elected state lawmakers. The state legislature is now out of session, but a number of agriculture-related policy issues will get the attention of special interim study committees, which often set the stage for action in January. Among the issues to be examined between now and when the 2008 legislature convenes are sales tax exemptions, groundwater use control, biofuels distribution, short line railroads and graduated drivers licenses.

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 on the *Voice of Agriculture* include:

- Melissa Wahl, Riley County and Trudi Corn, Haskell County, on county FB scholarships
- Ken Higley, Rawlins County and Mitch Feldkamp, Jefferson County, on the quality diversity of the '07 wheat harvest
- Billie Proctor, Seward County and Ruth Drees, Finney County, on county FB agriculture education efforts

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

