



## FB Supports Farm Bill Extension After DOHA Round Suspension

The recent collapse of world trade talks calls for a different approach to the future farm bill. Extending the current farm program with some changes to comply with current World Trade Organization (WTO) rules will ensure U.S. farmers have the support they need to survive in today's quarrelsome global trading arena.

The overriding message from the trade talks signal that the world is not yet ready to really open up markets and improve agricultural trade. Major trading nations were not willing to allow imports into their markets.

"Unfortunately, the World Trade Organization negotiations allow one step forward and two steps backward," says KFB President Steve Baccus. "Farm Bureau will continue working hard on every front – within our own government and abroad – to bring

about enlightenment on this crucial agricultural issue. We view this as only a temporary setback.

There's a lot to be said for consistency in this process," he continues. "The best thing Congress can do now is extend the current Farm Bill at least for another year."

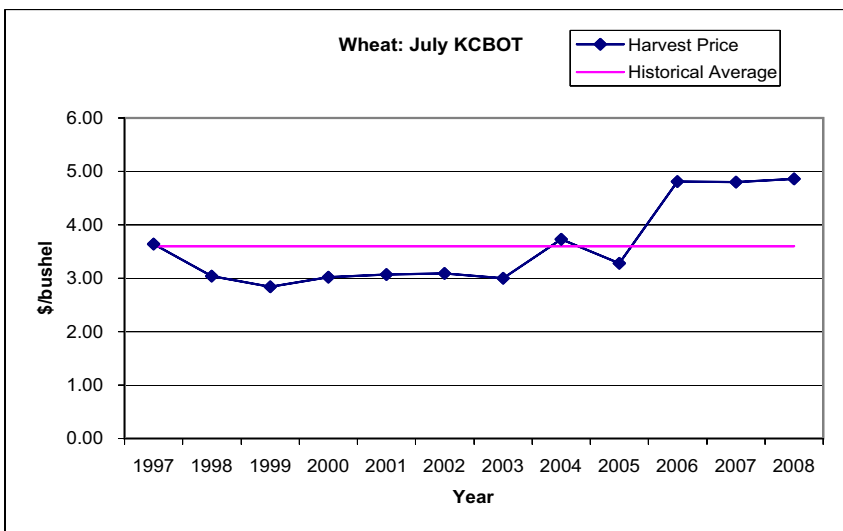
The current farm bill was enacted under the structure of WTO trade rules. If Congress were to go in another direction and write a completely new farm bill that reduces domestic supports while WTO talks remain suspended, then we would reduce our negotiators' ability to get trading partners to make concessions of their own. These concessions should include lower tariffs, the removal of export subsidies and fewer market access barriers that block our farmers' ability to compete fairly.

Extending the current farm bill avoids "putting the cart before the horse" by undertaking reforms that may not help us achieve our objectives in the negotiations. We are not far enough along in the negotiations to anticipate a satisfactory WTO outcome that includes greater market access. If significant changes are made to the farm bill now, they likely would need to be modified later once negotiations are complete.

"Eventually, Kansas farmers will reap the benefits to be gained through enhanced global trade," says Baccus. "The World Trade Organization talks may be suspended, but that doesn't mean we can simply quit thinking about them. At some point, those talks will resume and when they do, we do not want to be in a position of re-inventing the wheel."



	2006	2007	2008
Today's Delivery Month Futures Close	\$4.81	\$4.80	\$4.86
10 Year Harvest Price Average	\$3.32	\$3.52	\$3.74



### THE TIME IS NOW

Choosing the best time to market your crops can provide your farming operation with success or failure. As with many other businesses, farmers sometimes wait too long to price their wheat, bean, corn or milo crop

Today's markets continue to remain considerably higher than historical averages. These markets are now providing some timely and lucrative opportunities.

Wheat is trading in the \$4.80 – \$4.90 a bushel range, which is approximately \$1.30 - \$1.40 a bushel more than the 10-year harvest price average of \$3.51 since Freedom to Farm.

Kansas Farm Bureau's *Revenue Protection Solution* allows farmers to establish a minimum hedged and insured cash flow, while maintaining the upside in the market and minimizing delivery risk.

To learn more about this vital marketing tool and how it can work in your farming operation, contact Dave Spears at [spearsd@kfb.org](mailto:spearsd@kfb.org).



**DEFINING THE DEER CHALLENGE.** Sixty-eight interested people attended the first Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) meeting to gain input on KDWP's proposed changes to the deer hunting and harvest regulations and statutes. Thirteen additional meetings will be held throughout the state in August. Held in Medicine Lodge, August 1, nearly every person who attended expressed an opinion on deer hunting, permitting and hunter preference. One of the major

areas of dissatisfaction seems to be the transferable permit program. People don't like the idea that some are selling or reselling an agency issuance. Landowners, farmers and ranchers expressed their concern for additional permits and their insistence on their right as caretakers of the deer population to manage this resource and allow hunting in places that need them. Pictured is farmer/rancher Marvin Jantz speaking at the meeting in Medicine Lodge.

## Gov. Sebelius to Learn about Agriculture in North Central Kansas

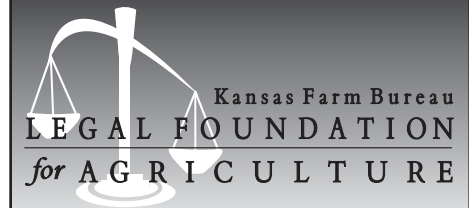
Farm Bureau's annual efforts to bring the state's chief executive officer to view agriculture first-hand will be held Aug. 28 in Jewell and Smith Counties.

The KFB Governor's Farm & Ranch Tour will begin at the Jewell Community Center for breakfast and a discussion of the relationship between rural communities and the surrounding farms and ranches that depend on them for education, products and services. Participants will then travel to the home of David and Sherrill Sasse, west of Smith Center, to focus on transitioning the family farm to the next generation. Attendees will then hear from Theron and Lori Haresnape, first-generation farmers west of Lebanon, who will share challenges from their first years of operation in acquiring land and

capital and providing health insurance for their growing family. Lunch will be provided at the Haresnape/Mary Feine farm, with a young farmer and rancher panel discussion to follow focusing on land acquisition and financing, health insurance, drought conditions, profitability and property taxes and school finance.

The final stop will be recently-consolidated Rock Hills High School. Tour participants will learn about the 120 students enrolled there and hear from members of the team who designed the consolidation.

Throughout the tour, Gov. Sebelius will hear from local experts and producers about the state of agriculture, education, rural development and new opportunities for game bird production and hunting in the Jewell and Smith County region.



## Kansas Fence Laws: Problems and Solutions

Many questions and problems arise on Kansas' farms and ranches concerning the duties and rights associated with fences. Kansas has numerous laws that spell out regulations to assist with fence disputes. More specifically, our laws prescribe when a fence is required, what a legal fence is, how responsibility for a fence is divided and how to resolve disputes between property owners.

One of the major areas of fence law that raise concerns is the rights and duties of landowners on adjoining properties. Typically, a "partition" or "line" fence is a fence on or near the boundary line separating adjoining properties. Our state requires landowners of adjoining properties to erect and maintain partition fences between the properties. These statutes contain a "forced-contribution" or "cost-share" component that requires the adjoining landowners to share the cost of erecting and maintaining the partition fence, unless the parties agree otherwise.

Keep in mind Kansas is a fence-in jurisdiction. This means that livestock owners are required to fence their animals in. As stated above, our laws require the owners of adjoining lands build and maintain in good repair all partition fences in equal shares. This sometimes creates conflict.

For more information, please contact Mike Irvin, Director, KFB Legal Foundation at (785) 587-6621 or visit the KFB Legal Foundation Web site at [kfb.org/kfblegalfoundation](http://kfb.org/kfblegalfoundation). For specific situations be sure to consult a lawyer.

**ATASTE OF THE HEARTLAND** was the theme for the annual International Leadership Alumni Conference, Aug. 2-5 in Manhattan. KFB President Baccus (pictured) offered welcoming remarks to the crowd from 12 states, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Baccus was a member of the first Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership (KARL) class from 1991-93. The conference covered topics on production agriculture, agritourism, processing and marketing, food safety and bioterrorism preparedness.



# FARM FLASHES . . .

## AFBF Searching for Best Farmer Idea

■ Farm Bureau members are encouraged to share their ideas, efficiencies and innovations by participating in the 2006 American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) *Farmer Idea Exchange* contest. The program is geared to surface inventions, equipment modifications, innovative crops, marketing techniques, management systems and farming practices developed by farmers and ranchers. Up to 15 winning entries from around the country will be selected for display at the Farm Bureau Showcase during AFBF convention, Jan. 7-8, 2007 in Salt Lake City, UT. Each of the 15 winners will receive \$1,500 to cover travel expenses to attend the convention. The winner of the national contest receives one year, free use of a New Holland Bidirectional Tractor.

Entries for the AFBF Farmer Idea Exchange must be submitted to KFB Member Services by Sept. 8. To download the PDF application form or apply online, go to the AFBF Web site, [www.fb.org/programs/farmerx/](http://www.fb.org/programs/farmerx/)

## Skin Analyzer Available to Educate FB Members

■ Kansas Farm Bureau has purchased

a new Glow-Essence Skin Analyzer – a unique



machine that utilizes black-light blue lamp technology to help identify various skin conditions. The machine does not screen for or predict skin cancer but can reveal otherwise invisible skin damage caused by sun exposure. KFB's 7<sup>th</sup> District Women's Committee Representative Debbie Suiter (right) is pictured visiting with Sen. Ruth Teichman, R-Stafford, at the Pratt County Fair. Pratt County Farm Bureau also sponsored bringing the skin analyzer to their county event. The KFB Women's Committee will display the analyzer during the Kansas State Fair in September and the KFB Annual Meeting in November. For more info, go to [kfb.org/women](http://kfb.org/women).

## Interested in Renewable Energy? Attend this Event

■ The Kansas Corporation Commission's Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Conference will be Sept. 26-27 at the Ramada Inn, Topeka. Kansas Farm Bureau is a financial sponsor of the annual event.

Attendees will hear from Rep. Carl Holmes, Chair of the House Utilities Committee; Lola Spradley, Chair of the Colorado Harvesting Energy Network and Dave Hamilton, Director, Global Warming and Energy Programs for the National Sierra Club.

Multiple breakout sessions will be offered throughout the day and participants will learn the latest in Kansas' energy efforts. For more info, go to [ksrenew.com](http://ksrenew.com).

## Community and EcoDevo Programs Presented August 15

■ USDA Rural Development will host a meeting August 15 in Lyons covering USDA's community and economic development programs. The day-long conference, co-hosted by the City of Lyons, will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Rice County Community Foundation Center, 1205 East Highway 56 and is open to the public.

To RSVP, contact John Sweet at (620) 257-2320 or [jsweet@lyonsks.org](mailto:jsweet@lyonsks.org).

## Agriculture Department Web site Offers Drought Info

■ Farmers and ranchers who need the latest drought information or who want to know how an agricultural disaster is declared should visit the Kansas Department of Agriculture Web site at [ksda.gov](http://ksda.gov).

The department hosts three Web pages – Kansas Drought Information, Procedures for Emergency Federal Assistance and Drought News – that explain the state's role in a drought, how an agriculture disaster is declared and link to the latest drought news from Governor Kathleen Sebelius, the Kansas Farm Service Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Currently, about two-thirds of Kansas is experiencing moderate to severe drought, while the remaining third is abnormally dry.

## AFBF President Stallman to Headline Annual Meeting

■ At this year's annual meeting, Kansas Farm Bureau will look around the corner to see what's coming in the next decade, help FB members prepare for industry changes and ultimately place farmers and ranchers in a position of profitability.

The theme "Leading Agriculture's Future," will carry farmers and ranchers through the two-day annual meeting venue, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 17-18 in Manhattan. Members will hear from American Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Stallman and KFB President Steve Baccus on the importance of looking to the future in agriculture. Activities have been enhanced as Young Farmer & Rancher events will be held at KFB headquarters and district caucuses are back into Friday's annual meeting schedule. Friday's schedule continues to offer educational workshops, the opening session of annual meeting and the traditional recognition and awards banquet. Saturday's activities include the all-important business session where members vote on Farm Bureau policies that will guide the organization for the year in Topeka and in Washington, D.C.

## Kansas Farm Bureau CALENDAR

### August 15

Natural Resources Award Applications Due

### August 17-18

KFB Resolutions Committee Meeting, Manhattan

### August 23

State NER Committee Meeting, Winfield

### August 27

State Committee of Farm Bureau Women Meeting, Beloit

### August 28

Governor's Farm and Ranch Tour, Smith and Jewell Counties

## Update on Pawnee IGUCA Expansion

The Kansas Department of Agriculture held info meetings last month to explain the public hearing process as the Chief Engineer considers expanding the existing Pawnee Intensive Groundwater Use Control Area (IGUCA).

At these meetings, details of the management strategies proposed by two working groups, one from Pawnee County and the other from Ness/Hodgeman Counties were presented. These strategies will be considered on the decision to expand Pawnee IGUCA and impose corrective measures to deal with over-development of alluvial, Ogallala and Dakota aquifers.

A Pre-hearing Conference is set for 1 p.m., **August 16** at Larned City Hall. Those wishing to become "party" to the hearing should notify the Chief Engineer, (785) 296-3710, in


advance. During this meeting parties will be identified, dates to exchange information will be set, issues will be identified and questions can be answered.

Consider becoming party to the hearing if you hold water rights or have legal interest in the affected area, have evidence to present for consideration, want to cross-examine witnesses or anyone willing to invest the time/resources it takes to participate. Many who become party to the hearing will have legal representation though it is not a requirement.

The public hearing will be at 10 a.m., Oct. 24 at Larned City Hall. The following day at Larned City Hall public comments may be submitted to the hearing officer from 7-9 p.m. by anyone with information relevant to the IGUCA expansion.



**DEPTH OF INFO.** NRCS soil scientist Bob Tricks points out the tillage pan line and the depth of root penetration from the no-till soybean crop in a soil pit, as participants in KFB's 5th annual No-till Workshop look on. Tricks contrasted this soil pit with a similar pit across the road that was conventionally tilled. The No-till Workshop, held last month in Hays, also offered a morning tour of local fields and afternoon sessions on the economics of no-till farming including reduced input costs.



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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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