

Kansas graduates of FB Leadership Experience

Five FB members of Kansas have completed the multi-state 2007 Farm Bureau Leadership Experience program. Completing the program are Brandi Bray, Republic Co.; Dana Pieper, Rooks Co.; Brett Skillman,

Coffey Co.; Barb Schlesener, Dickinson Co.; and Pam Dankenbring, Marshall Co.

This first-year program included three learning opportunities in West Des Moines, Iowa and Manhattan covering issues like animal welfare, building bridges with consumers, utilizing risk management tools, how to develop and deliver a positive message for agriculture, water issues, healthcare and transportation. Wrapping up the 2007 learning experience was a three-day meeting in Washington, D.C., where members heard from AFBF staffers and spent time on the Hill visiting legislator's offices.

The FB Leadership Experience is for emerging county Farm Bureau leaders with the potential for providing exceptional leadership in their county and state. If you would like to participate in this program, please contact Angie Sutton, KFB Member Relations and Promotion, at (785) 587-6122 for information.



Completing the first-ever Farm Bureau Leadership Program were FB members of Kansas Pam Dankenbring, Dana Pieper, Brandi Bray, Barb Schlesener and Brett Skillman pictured here in Washington, D.C.

Kansas State Fair wraps up, FB members active participants

The Kansas State Fair wrapped up Sept. 17 and the Farm Bureau presence was felt throughout the ten day celebration. Farm Bureau Day, Fri., Sept. 14, featured a recognition program and lunch to honor county Farm Families of the Year, Century Farm Award recipients and district Natural Resources Award winners. The program was a hit with a record number of more than 450 attendees.



Fun was had by all during the Kansas State Fair. Here, kids of all ages enjoy themselves during the Ag Magic Show at KFB's Ag Central.

County FB member volunteers rewarded more than 3,000 fairgoers with free ice cream coupons as they participated in the Kansas Farm Facts trivia challenge at KFB's Ag Central. Fairgoers also enjoyed the hands-on, interactive series of displays, the Magic of Agriculture Show and *The House That Ag Built*, Ag Central's feature exhibit, that identified agricultural commodities

KFB Calendar

October 1

Awards for Excellence applications due

October 29

Resolutions Committee meeting

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✓ KFB Masters program begins its ninth year

✓ State Fair a success with help from devoted FB volunteers

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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Inaugural 'Ag law' update held at KFB

During the initial *Agricultural Law Update*, front-burner issues facing Kansas farmers and ranchers were discussed. Kansas Farm Bureau's Legal Foundation hosted this event at the KFB state headquarters Sept. 21.

The Kansas Bar Association, Kansas State University and the KFB Legal Foundation sponsored this seminar.

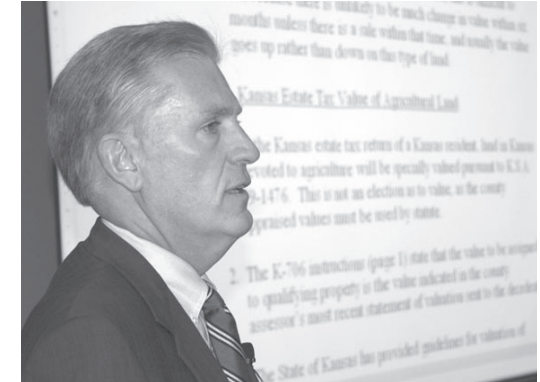
Butler County attorney Tim Connell traveled from El Dorado to attend the seminar. This specific area of law is one Connell is interested in because he's involved in agriculture.

"It's important we (attorneys) keep up-to-date on agricultural law," Connell said. "I want to do a good job of presenting my ag clients and make sure I give them good advice and they can keep out of trouble. I don't believe many people understand what a big part of the Kansas economy agriculture plays."

Courses presented during the one-day seminar included the impact of environmental law on rural legal practice, the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, an update to

developments in law and taxation impacting farmers and ranchers including income taxation, real property, cooperatives and regulatory law.

KFB's Terry Arthur talked about "fair market value" versus "use value" in planning and administration of estates with farm and ranch land during his presentation. The 94 attorneys, from across Kansas, who attended also heard about the role of the National Agricultural Law Center on the practice of agricultural law, water allocation law and issues impacting livestock law.



KFB's Terry Arthur explains "fair market value" versus "use value" in planning and administration of estates with farm and ranch land during his presentation at the Ag Law Update Sept. 21.

This inaugural *Ag Law Update* was held to make certain attorneys from across Kansas understand the ever-changing laws, court cases and regulations impacting agriculture.

"We wanted those attorneys who deal with agricultural law on a day-to-day basis, to benefit from the latest information on these subjects and how it impacts Kansas farmers and ranchers," Arthur said.

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'No' to releasing acres

Kansas Farm Bureau recently sent a letter to USDA's acting secretary Chuck Conner, regarding the USDA's consideration of releasing CRP acres without penalty to address perceived needs for expanded production of wheat and other commodities experiencing shortages on the world market.

The letter concluded that releasing additional acres will result in unnecessary manipulation of the market. It also explained that many of the acres enrolled in CRP are highly erodible and not suited for production.

Conner replaces Mike Johanns who resigned from his position as agriculture secretary earlier this month. Conner was previously the USDA's deputy agriculture secretary. Johanns is expected to run for the Senate seat being vacated next year by Sen. Chuck Hagel (Neb.).

Masters experience the foundation of ag

The ninth class of the KFB's *Masters* program has begun their studies. The program develops a person's insight into agriculture and showcases FB's role in the state's number one industry, agriculture.

This year's class began with the *Foundation of Agriculture*, a session focused on farms, equipment, livestock and crops.

K-State Extension and Pottawatomie Co. FB leader Glenn Brunkow facilitated the group with presentations and visits to Pottawatomie Co. ag businesses.

After visits to corn and soybean fields, the group toured Brunkow's Angus operation to review cattle production which included age and source verification in KFB's *Beef Verification Solution* program.



Opportunities for input

Farm Bureau is built upon grassroots member involvement. Member involvement that develops policy from the ground up. The same policy that's debated and voted on at the *KFB Annual Meeting*, Nov. 9-10 in Manhattan.

View the Resolutions Committee tentative resolutions online by going to www.kfb.org/government.

Member input is also needed at Listening Posts going on across the state, and the 2007 Policy Development Questionnaire is online and ready to garner opinions of FB members on major issues that affect agriculture and rural Kansas.

Go to www.kfb.org/government and take a look at the tentative resolutions and provide your input today.

This year's participants include Ken Adamek, Winfield; Dave Baldwin, Manhattan; Don Day, Council Grove; Lisa Fairbanks, Oakley; Tom Hawk, Manhattan; Darrin Holle, Gardner; Michelle Hubert, Oakley; John Kuszmaul, Murdock; Vickie Larson, Manhattan; Amy O'Rourke, Linwood; Bill Otto, LeRoy; Thomas Penka, Pratt; Larry Riley, Manhattan; Jerry Sipes, Bonner Springs; Jay Smith, Kingman; and Jon Srna, Westmoreland.

Farm flashes

Fall Forestry Field Day

Kansas Forest Service will host Fall Forestry Field Day Oct. 5 at a tree farm 10 miles north of Fort Scott from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The day provides an opportunity for woodland owners, forest industry, foresters, research scientists and other natural resource professionals to network and share the best information, experience and techniques available to protect and sustain the forest resources of Kansas. Jay Allen's farm features 114 acres of forestland, half of which has been improved through thinning and pruning operations. The Allen's have also planted 32 acres of trees and shrubs through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). For more information contact Bob Atchison at (785) 532-3310.

Asian soybean rust found in Kansas

For the first time ever, Asian soybean rust has been confirmed in a Kansas soybean field. K-State researchers and the Kansas Dept. of Agriculture have confirmed that a leaf sample from a soybean plant collected from a sentinel plot in Montgomery Co. has the disease. "For this year, this will only be a problem in late-planted soybeans," said K-State plant pathologist Doug Jardine. "There are 300,000 to 400,000 acres of late-planted soybeans this year that are potentially in danger. This represents about 10 to 15 percent of the state's crop." Any soybean field that has reached the R6 stage of development (full pod fill) is no longer in danger from the disease, Jardine said. Decisions to apply a fungicide on fields that have not reached that growth stage need to be made on a field-to-field basis. Additional information on soybean rust can be found at www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/infocenter/topic/soybeanrust/.

Your place to go for commodity info

Go to www.kfb.org/commodities and you'll find new and updated information important to Kansas producers including livestock updates, market updates from AFBF, and research on issues that affect your bottom line. Check back often as information will regularly be updated.

Allen CCC joins KFB collegiate ranks

Allen County Community College is the newest KFB Collegiate Chapter. At the first organizational meeting of the group, 21 students attended. KFB's Collegiate program provides students the opportunity to enhance their leadership skills through experiences within the FB organization to become ag leaders. Other chapters include community colleges in Coffeyville, Colby, Fort Scott and Seward County, as well as a chapter at K-State. For more information go to www.kfb.org/collegiatefb.

Retail ammonia fertilizer guidance

A web-based compliance assistance tool (www.asmark.org/myrmp/suite.shtml) for agricultural fertilizer retailers has been developed. The materials provide practical advice, insights, and guidelines for better understanding the Risk Management Program and its implementation, as it applies to facilities in the retail ammonia fertilizer industry.

Employee management seminar

K-State Research and Extension, the National Pork Board and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association are sponsoring the "Employee Management for Production Agriculture Conference" Oct. 11-12 in Kansas City, Mo. Sessions include conflict management, immigration legal issues, recruiting and turnover. For more information go to www.agmanager.info/events/HRCConf/default.asp.



Prairie dog saga stalls

The prairie dog case continues in Logan Co. On Sept. 7, Logan Co. instituted a program to control the population of the prairie dogs on the Haverfield's and Barnhardt's land. The Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks permitted the County to use a control method covering approximately 100 yards along the perimeter or a control strip on the land in question. The purpose is to protect adjacent landowners from the infestation of prairie dogs. Shortly thereafter the Haverfields and Barnhardts were granted a temporary restraining order against the County Commissioners and the Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks. This action was sought and granted in Shawnee County District Court.

Earlier in August, the parties agreed to dismiss the action based on the premise the County gave adequate notice to eradicate the prairie dogs and the defendants, Haverfields and Barnhardts, failed to eradicate the prairie dogs pursuant to the 100-year-old Kansas statute.

This all started when the County Commission filed suit against the ranchers in Logan Co. in Dec. 2006 asking the Dist. Court to allow it to go on the lands and eradicate the prairie dogs, citing laws that have been in place since 1904. This action occurred when landowners, farmers and ranchers and county commissioners decided to take immediate action to control the prairie dogs on the infested land.

Building on our roots

Mark your calendars now for 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. 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.

New KFB documentary coming

Despite the trends, small, rural communities – the ones most Kansans call home – have the ability to find innovative and meaningful ways to heal themselves. A new KFB TV documentary will tackle that notion head-on and make a compelling case that the small, rural communities can reinvent themselves.

Rural Kansas: Hope Endures begins airing on Kansas public television stations in November and will introduce a new way of thinking about rural development based on the fundamental notion that truly meaningful and sustainable change must emanate from within the community. Preview it at www.kfb.org.