



KFB Television Documentary to Examine Kansas Population Shifts

If you live in Kansas today, you are right in the middle of history.

Since 1990, the population of rural Kansas has declined significantly. Meanwhile, growth in our cities, suburbs and bedroom communities during that same period of time has been nothing short of phenomenal.

These trends that began in the early '90's continue today.

The slow, steady movement

of population away from rural Kansas and its impact on those who remain will be explored in a KFB-produced half-hour television documentary, to air this fall on broadcast and cable TV across Kansas and nationwide on RFD-TV.

"Rural Kansas: Heritage Lost?" features the real-life, heartfelt thoughts and stories of many active Farm Bureau members in Kansas who speak



eloquently and thoughtfully about the effect shifting populations have on their lives and their communities.

"This is an important story for all Kansans, regardless of where they live," said Mike Matson, KFB Director of Communications & Public Relations, who wrote, produced and directed the documentary.

"Those who are building their lives in agriculture or rural Kansas feel passionately about

that decision. This documentary will allow others to connect, or in some cases re-connect, with that choice."

This kind of human migration within the borders of Kansas has profound ramifications on the families who make the conscious decision to remain in rural Kansas. The political, social and economic dynamics of these seismic demographic changes are now beginning to be felt in meaningful, measurable ways all over our state.

"Every single public policy issue we deal with is impacted by these population trends," said Harry Watts, KFB's Managing Director of Governmental Relations. "It's no secret that the rural perspective is declining in the halls of government. We owe it to our members to keep their interests front and center."

Fewer people in rural Kansas mean a dwindling tax base and forces difficult, often contentious discussions on things like government consolidation and health care availability.

It goes to the very heart of the current public education funding debate in Kansas. If the very identity of a rural community is defined by a school that may soon be gone, what's that mean for the fabric of the community?

Preview

"Rural Kansas: Heritage Lost?" at kfb.org

"Rural Kansas: Heritage Lost?" airs on:

Smoky Hills Public Television
KOOD-TV (Channel 9, Bunker Hill)
KDCK-TV (Channel 21, Dodge City)
KSWK-TV (Channel 8, Lakin)
Thursday, November 9 at 7 p.m. CST
Friday, December 1 at 7:30 p.m. CST

KPTS-TV (Channel 8, Wichita)
Thursday, November 9 at 7 p.m. CST

KTWU-TV (Channel 11, Topeka)
Sunday, November 26 at 12:30 p.m. and
9:30 p.m. CST

RFD-TV
DIRECTV (Channel 379)
Dish Network (Channel 9409)
Tuesday, November 14 at 5:30 p.m. CST

Cox cable
Kansas Now 22 (Channel 22)
Saturday, November 11 at 8 a.m. CST

Kansas Farm Service Agency: Between a Rock and a Hard Place

Dwindling budgets and lack of personnel are leaving Kansas Farm Services Agency (FSA) with no choice but to consolidate offices. While no one wants this – it's going to happen. Resigned to the inevitable, FSA will submit a proposed state plan for Kansas to Washington in mid-November.

Upon review there, proposed changes will be validated and recommendations will be shared with Congressional members whose states will

be impacted by the change – timeline somewhere the first of December. The next step will be for FSA in Kansas to hold public meetings in any county where there is a proposed closure. Upon hearing from counties designated for closure, a final proposed state plan will go back to Washington with a decision sometime, probably in January 2007.

Calling it a transition period for Kansas ag producers, Fuller said there would probably be between six and 12

office closings in the Sunflower State. He did say that when consolidation of these counties does come, individual producers would have a choice on where (which nearby county) they want to take their records and conduct future business.

Kansas Farm Bureau President Steve Baccus attended the meeting and said that while streamlining the Farm Service Agency is necessary, efficiency should not come at the cost of reduced services for ag producers.

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.

Beef Verification Solution, a Private Data-Sharing Network, is Also USDA Approved

Good news for *Beef Verification Solution* participants, AgInfoLink USA, a privately-held food traceability information solutions provider, has been approved by USDA as an Animal Tracking Database for the interim/development phase of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). USDA granted approval after a rigorous independent review of AgInfoLink's system including patented software and hardware infrastructure. Beef producers who utilize KFB's *Beef Verification Solution* are instantly connected through AgInfoLink to share customer data on a voluntary basis to USDA's information system to track livestock movements in an animal disease surveillance or emergency.

Kansas Farm Bureau's *Beef Verification Solution* seamlessly helps beef producers fit into the national animal I.D. requirements. *Beef Verification Solution* offers information management services and solutions to the livestock industry. Solutions include animal identification devices like tags and RFID readers, verification services including age and source verification through AgInfoLink's USDA-approved Processed Verified Program (PVP), software or paper-based data collection methods and information reporting and analysis tools.

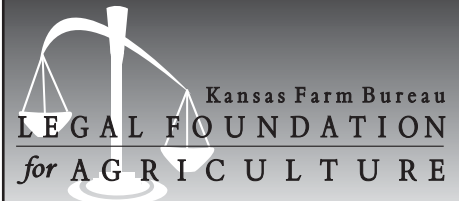
For more info, contact a BVS staff member at (800) 406-3053 ext. 6141 or bvsinfo@agsolusa.com/bvs.

Community Wind Workshop Available Across State

Renewable energy groups in Kansas have come together to offer support and educate folks about community wind. The Kansas Community Wind Workshop is set for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Oct. 31 at Cloud County Community College (CCCC), Concordia. There are also three Kan-ed ITV remote sites available including Butler Community College, Colby Community College and Dodge City Community College. Lunch and breaks are provided with a registration fee of \$10 at each of the four sites. Speakers include Jim Ploger, Kansas Energy Office

and Lisa Daniels, Executive Director of Windustry as well as several panel discussions with wind companies representatives and legislative leaders. The program concludes with a tour of CCCC Wind Energy Technology Program.

Sponsors of the event are Cloud County Community College, KFB Legal Foundation, Kansas Farmers Union, The Kansas Rural Center, Kansas Energy Office and Wind Powering America. To register or for more info, contact Marilyn Martin at (800) 729-5101, ext. 201 or mmartin@cloud.edu.



Lifetime Gifts

As we approach the end of the year, it is a good time to consider gifts to family members to help reduce a person's estate for estate tax purposes. By gifting assets during lifetime, a person can transfer more property to family members tax free, than if they were to distribute their entire estate at death.

- Kansas does not have a gift tax but will have a stand alone estate tax beginning in 2007 and continuing through 2009. If a person's estate will exceed \$1,000,000, they might want to make gifts to avoid paying any Kansas estate tax, in the event they would pass away prior to January 1, 2010.
- The Federal estate tax exemption for 2007 and 2008 is \$2,000,000 and \$3,500,000 in 2009. In 2010, there is no Federal estate tax and the exemption goes back to \$1,000,000 in 2011 unless the law is changed. If a person might be subject to estate tax, they can make annual gifts to reduce the size of their estate.
- The gift tax annual exclusion is a good way to reduce an estate for estate tax purposes. A person may give away \$12,000 per year to as many people as they desire, without reducing their estate tax exemption. A spouse may do the same. Gifts over this amount each year will come off the Federal estate and gift tax exemption. The amount of the annual exclusion will increase with inflation but not necessarily every year. The annual exclusion has increased from \$10,000 per year per donee to \$12,000 per year in the last few years. A person may not exceed \$1,000,000 during lifetime in gifts over the annual exclusion without paying gift tax. The annual exclusion does not reduce the \$1,000,000.

For more information, contact Mike Irvin, Director of the KFB Legal Foundation at (785) 587-6621 or Terry Arthur, General Counsel, KFB. Please visit the KFB Legal Foundation Web site, kfb.org/kfblegalfoundation. For specific situations be sure to consult a lawyer.

FARM FLASHES . . .

Coffeyville CC Joins the Collegiate FB Program

Students at Coffeyville Community College (CCC) have formed the newest Collegiate Farm Bureau (CFB) chapter. At their first meeting, Coffeyville CFB members received a \$700 check from Kansas Farm Bureau to begin the Collegiate Farm Bureau chapter. Additional Collegiate Farm Bureau programs exist at Ft. Scott Community College, Colby Community College and Kansas State University. Farm Bureau members who have students enrolled at these schools should encourage them to consider these leadership opportunities.



Pictured are front row: Chapter Public Relations/Reporter Alyssa Golden; Chapter President Rebecca Muller; Kansas Farm Bureau's Debbie Hargrave; Chapter Vice President Brook Bradbury; Chapter Secretary/Treasurer Wendi Clubine; back row: Montgomery County Farm Bureau President Cindy DeTar, College Advisers Derek Dick and Brian Anderson, CCC President Don Woodburn, College Adviser Cary Crow and CCC Dean of Agriculture Alysia Johnston.

Select Kansas Commodity Commissioners by Nov. 30

Grain growers in eastern Kansas who plan to campaign for a seat on one of the state's five grain commodity commissions should be gathering petition signatures now to meet the Nov. 30 filing deadline.

Candidates must gather 20 signatures from eligible voters to be included on the 2007 ballot. No more than five signatures from any one county can be used to qualify a candidate. Eligible voters are Kansas residents who will reach age 18 before the election and who have grown corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers or wheat for the last three years. Candidate packets are available from the Kansas Department of Agriculture or any of the grain commodity commissions.

Rural Kansans Invited to Attend Life Expo

Rural Kansas is a special place to live and work. Folks who want to learn more and better understand this part of their state are invited to attend the Rural Life Expo on Nov. 4.

The day-long event will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Rock Creek Jr./Sr. High School, 9355 Flush Rd., St. George (six miles north of Highway 24).

Topics on the agenda include legal issues for farmers and ranchers, rural electricity noxious weed law, prescribed burning, local emergency management, working with a lending institution, farm and rural life safety and wildlife enhancement.

A free lunch will be sponsored by Frontier Farm Credit and Pottawatomie County Farm Bureau. The goal of this event is to offer information for all rural landowners and provide a network for them to receive more assistance.

Interested folks should RSVP to Glenn Brunkow at gbrunkow@ksu.edu or Della Sass at dsass@ksu.edu or by calling (785) 457-3319.

Pawnee IGUCA Meeting Will be Rescheduled This Fall

Producers planning to attend the Pawnee Intensive Groundwater Use Control Area (IGUCA) hearing scheduled for October 24 should know the meeting has been postponed, in addition to the Oct. 25 public comments session. Notice was mailed to those who became "party" to the proceedings. The Kansas Division of Water Resources Basin Team will reschedule the meeting between Thanksgiving and the first of the year. Watch your *Farm Leader Letter* for more details.

NRCS Announces Fiscal Year 2007 Program Cutoff Dates

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced the following farm bill program 2007 funding cutoff dates: November 17, Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP); December 15, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program and December 15, Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

Applications for these programs are accepted on a continuing basis throughout the year. For more info, go to ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs.

Cash Prizes and Travel Available for YF&Rs

Agriculture producers age 35 or younger are eligible to enter three state-level Farm Bureau competitions during the Kansas Farm Bureau annual meeting, Nov. 17 in Manhattan. Registration deadline for all YF&R awards is November 1.

Winners in each of these three contests will receive cash awards up to \$800 from Dodge, Kansas Farm Bureau and Abengoa Bioenergy; expense-paid trips to the 2007 KFB YF&R Leaders Conference, Jan. 26-28 in Wichita or the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting, Jan. 7-9, 2007 in Salt Lake City, UT. Award winners will also take home a free copy of Farm Files and a one-year subscription to *High Plains Journal*, *Kansas Farmer* and *Grass & Grain*.

The national winner(s) of YF&R Achievement Award, Discussion Meet and Excellence in Agriculture will receive a selected 2007 Dodge Ram pickup.

FB members can obtain registration forms, awards and prizes and contest details at their county FB office or at kfb.org/yfr.

Kansas Farm Bureau CALENDAR

November 1

YF&R competition deadline (Achievement Award, Discussion Meet, Excellence in Ag)

November 6

Resolutions Committee Meeting, Manhattan

November 16

State Committee of Farm Bureau Women meeting, Manhattan
Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee meeting, Manhattan

November 16

County President's Conference, Manhattan

November 17

State Membership & Promotion Committee Meeting, Manhattan

November 17-18

KFB Annual Meeting, Manhattan

November 17-23

Farm-City Week

BVS Program Earns Money for Comanche County Ranch

Beef producers enrolled in *Beef Verification Solution* may soon see a return on their program investment. The Merrill Ranch, Comanche County, utilizes BVS to source and age verify their calves and are selling them at Pratt Calf Sales on Oct. 16 and Oct. 23. The Merrill's manage a cow calf operation and will sell a total of 500 head.

For more info on BVS, call program staff at (800) 406-3053 ext. 6141 or bvsinfo@agsolusa.com/bvs.



AGRICULTURE EDUCATION. Ottawa County Farm Bureau Association hosted their 2nd Annual Ag Awareness Day for 105 5th grade students, thanks to a grant from the KFB Foundation. Fifth grade students and teachers from Tescott, Bennington and Minneapolis attended stations on wheat, corn, soybeans, pollution, feed grains, beef, equine and roping, goats, dairy, machinery and agriculture technology. Each station was presented by Ottawa County FB board members and representatives from various commodity groups.



MAKING FRIENDS.

On November 7, vote for Friends of Farm Bureau who understand and appreciate your way of life, like Rep. Mitch Holmes (right) in the 114th House District, which includes all of Pratt

and Stafford and parts of Pawnee and Edwards counties. Here, Rep. Holmes accepts a KFB campaign donation from Brian Dunn of the Stafford County Farm Bureau.



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