



## KFB Members to Carry on Tradition of Grassroots Policy at 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

On November 17 and 18, nearly 1,000 Farm Bureau members from across Kansas will trek to Manhattan to tackle the business of setting policy. It's a storied tradition – in fact, it's been going on for 88 years. To quote the conference's theme, farmers and ranchers will be "Leading Agriculture's Future" as they set the road map for Farm Bureau's public policy staff to take to Topeka and Washington, DC.

The annual meeting includes many opportunities for education and fellowship, but for most members, the policy debate is one they look forward to all year. That's because Farm Bureau's policy process starts with you, the member, and doesn't end until the closing gavel of Saturday's business session.

From winter's issue-surfacing meetings to fall's Listening Posts, State Resolutions Committee (RC) members and KFB staff work to make sure that FB members' concerns are addressed in the Report of the Resolutions Committee that is the foundation of the annual policy debate.

Of course, this year's biggest national policy issue is the 2007 farm bill. The RC has recommended supporting an extension of the current farm bill until a new World Trade Organization agreement is reached. The committee has also recommended a WTO-compliant revenue insurance program for all agricultural producers.

For many members, the highlight of the annual meeting is Saturday's business session. This year, more than 400 voting delegates will elect KFB's president; State Board members from the even-numbered districts; and members of the State Women's Committee from odd-numbered districts.

Then, the delegates will take up the Resolutions Committee's report and

spend the better part of a day hashing out policy that impacts their livelihood-farming and ranching.

"The report of the Resolutions Committee is a significant portion of the Business Session," says Resolutions Committee Chair and KFB Vice President Edie Dahlsten. "It is the culmination of our year-long grassroots policy development process. We have a long history of listening to our members and addressing their concerns in policy that allows our staff to

advocate for agriculture with local, state and national leaders."

Delegates will go over proposed policy line by line – whether it be elimination of the franchise tax or allowing farmers to get in-kind payment for their crop insurance – to make sure that your interests are represented.

If you're not a voting delegate, don't worry; you can bring up issues of concern at Friday's Open Discussion of Resolutions. If you've got something on your mind, that's your chance.

Here's a quick look at some of the policy issues and recommendations delegates will tackle at the KFB annual meeting.

### ✓ **Rural Development**

Farm Bureau will push for increased opportunities for entrepreneurship, promote leadership groups, attract and retain youth and create opportunities to capture and retain wealth in rural communities.

### ✓ **Consolidation of**

#### **Local Units of Government**

Support consolidation when there is a dual majority or where the consolidation plan provides for consistency in the level of services currently provided to rural residents, prohibit the extension of the boundaries outside of city limits at the time of consolidation and provide that existing financial obligations remain with the authorizing authority. In addition the government of the largest population base in the county ceases to exist upon consolidation and separate budgets and tax statements are developed for county and city residents.

### ✓ **Renewable Energy**

Encourage a statewide energy plan that promotes the use of wind energy, ethanol and bio-diesel. Support the goal that 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States by 2025 comes from renewable sources.

### ✓ **Conservation Reserve Enhancement CREP**

Allow some Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) enrolled acres to be dryland farmed or grazed. Support the development of a CREP for retirement of water rights.

### ✓ **Crop Insurance**

Let farmers receive their crop insurance payments either in cash or in the commodities affected by the claim.

### ✓ **Eminent Domain**

Specify that agricultural land or open space be excluded from lands that can be designated by local governments as "blighted." Current law allows city or county governments to take blighted land by using eminent domain.

### ✓ **Driver's Licenses**

Establish a graduated licensing system; keep the farm permit for 14-year-olds.

### ✓ **Property Classification and Appraisal**

Farm program payments, easement payments and conservation payments, such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), EQIP or CREP, should not be considered when determining use value appraisal.

### ✓ **Seatbelts**

Primary seatbelt legislation should exclude vehicles not originally equipped with seatbelts.



**REAL, LIVE LEADERSHIP.** KFB President Steve Baccus (right) climbed down from his combine during fall harvest and traveled to the Living Water Ranch north of Manhattan to share his insights into the meaning of being a leader in agriculture with student leaders from KSU's College of Agriculture. The student leaders

participated in *Changing Seasons*, a developmental program designed specifically for agricultural student leaders nearing the end of their college careers. As the end comes to the college years, a variety of challenges await new graduates: finding a career, making a home in a new community and balancing a family and career.

## County Farm Bureaus Connect with Local FFA Chapters

Delegates to the Kansas Farm Bureau annual meeting on November 18 will be part of an official announcement of a new partnership with the Kansas FFA Foundation. Kansas Farm Bureau will become a "five-star" sponsor of the Kansas FFA Foundation when it presents a check of \$10,000 to the organization.

Part of the donation will be used to offer \$5,000 in grants to FFA chapters who partner with their county Farm Bureau associations to provide youth leadership opportunities. Funds will also be used to start a new agriculture teacher mentoring program in Kansas. The program will provide teacher-to-teacher

mentors for beginning ag teachers to help retain and train them in the classroom.

Steve Baccus, Kansas Farm Bureau president, says the sponsorship is an opportunity to provide the future leaders of Kansas agriculture with recognition and leadership development opportunities.

"The next generation of agriculture leaders are found in FFA chapters all over Kansas today," Baccus said. "The farmers and ranchers of Farm Bureau share their values and are eager to nurture their potential."

KFB will become the sponsor of the State Star in Ag Placement award, which recognizes the top FFA student employed by an agricultural business.

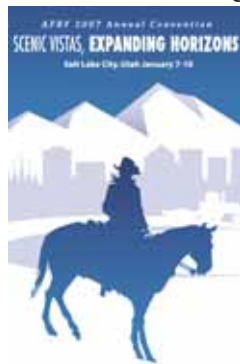
## Three Kansans Notch National Recognition

Two Stafford County Farm Bureau idea/programs and one from Kingman County have been selected as winners in the American Farm Bureau Federation County Activities of Excellence programs and the Farmer Idea Exchange. The winners will display their entries in the Farm Bureau Showcase at the AFBF convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, Jan. 7-10.

Scott Pfortmiller, a Stafford County farmer will compete in the Farmer Idea Exchange. His idea is a simple, low-cost way to convert a no-till drill to a row planter by using five-inch by five-inch square PVC fence post. The individual planter boxes that fit inside the drill box are adjustable, install in minutes and eliminate manual level of the grain.

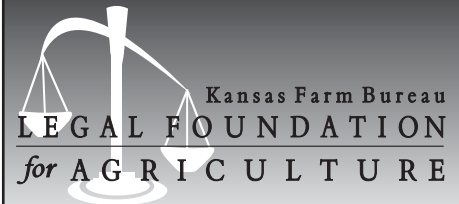
Representatives from Kingman County will host a booth and share information about their idea with more than 5,000 AFBF attendees at the

County Activities of Excellence. With the purpose of making consumers aware of the impact of agriculture on their daily lives, *Weekly Ag Facts* was born. Each week an ad is placed in the grocery flyer in Kingman County. All facets of agriculture are covered including grains, produce, livestock, ag careers and general information on farming and ranching.



Stafford County FB representatives will also be on hand to host a booth and share information at the County Activities of Excellence programs. A refrigerated vending machine was purchased by Stafford County Farm Bureau and placed in a local school.

Stafford County FB retains ownership while partnering with the Stafford High School FFA chapter to manage the machine as a fundraiser. Milk and snacks using healthy food choice guidelines are offered in the machine.



## Lifetime Gifts

In the last issue of *Farm Leader Letter*, we discussed making lifetime gifts and amounts that may be gifted without incurring gift tax. There are some additional matters that should be considered when making gifts.

- (a) If assets other than cash are gifted, the basis for income tax purposes to the donee is the donor's basis. For land that a donor paid \$50,000 for that is now worth \$100,000, the donee's basis will be \$50,000. If that land was included in the donor's estate, instead of being gifted, the basis would increase to date of death value, or \$100,000 in this example.
- (b) If a donor retains a life estate in the property being gifted, then the property will be included in their taxable estate because of the retained interest in the property.
- (c) Agricultural land used in a family farm may be eligible for valuation for federal estate tax at its "use value" instead of "fair market value." That could create a significant reduction in the value of the estate for federal estate tax purposes. If that land is gifted, it is not eligible for "use value," and will be valued based upon its "fair market value." It could also cause the remaining land in the estate to not qualify for "use value," if the estate did not contain enough qualified property at the decedent's death to meet the percentage requirements for the use value appraisal election.
- (d) The Medicaid rules require a five-year lookback for any gifts made by a person asking for assistance with nursing home expense, which could disqualify or delay their request for Medicaid.

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](http://kfb.org/kfblegalfoundation). For specific situations be sure to consult a lawyer.

# FARM FLASHES . . .

## Grain Growers Registering for 2007 Election

■ Grain growers in the eastern third of the state who plan to vote in the 2007 election to decide who will represent them on the state's five commodity commissions are registering now to meet the Dec. 31 deadline.

Later this year, the Kansas Department of Agriculture will announce the candidates from districts seven, eight and nine who are campaigning for seats on the corn, grain sorghum, soybean, sunflower and wheat commodity commissions. The commissions decide how to spend grain check-off funds for the greatest benefit of Kansas grain producers, whether it's in research, education or promotions.

District seven includes Atchison, Brown, Doniphan, Jackson, Jefferson, Leavenworth, Marshall, Nemaha, Pottawatomie, Riley and Wyandotte counties.

District eight includes Anderson, Chase, Coffey, Douglas, Franklin, Geary, Johnson, Linn, Lyon, Miami, Morris, Osage, Shawnee and Wabaunsee counties.

District nine includes Allen, Bourbon, Butler, Chautauqua, Cherokee, Cowley, Crawford, Elk, Greenwood, Labette, Montgomery, Neosho, Wilson and Woodson counties.

## Conservation Districts Gather for Annual Conference

■ The subject is conservation of the state's natural resources, and it will be on the minds of some 500 conservation personnel as they gather at the Airport Hilton in Wichita for the 62<sup>nd</sup> annual convention of the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) November 19-21.

The theme of this year's convention is "New Horizons," which reflects a current key topic of interest to meeting participants: the pending reorganization of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The reorganization, still in the planning stages, could affect the administration of local conservation offices. The NRCS restructuring will be discussed in the general session on the final day of the convention.

Breakout sessions will cover specific conservation topics and also will include an overview of the Kansas open meetings and open records laws.



## Kansas Dairy Groups Forge Alliance

■ The Kansas Dairy Association (KDA), Kansas Dairy Commission (KDC) and Midwest Dairy Association (MDA) have announced a new alliance beginning Jan. 1, 2007. An agreement among the three groups allows each organization to continue their separate roles while taking advantage of common resources, programs and staff.

The new plan calls for MDA to provide administrative services to the two Kansas dairy groups, and to share a staff member who will carry out roles on behalf of all partners.

KDA is a membership organization that provides a unified voice for the state's dairy farmers on public policy and economic issues. The KDC collects and allocates a checkoff of three-fourths of a cent per hundredweight on milk sold from Kansas dairy farms, directed primarily at producer education and local promotions. MDA manages the dairy checkoff and conducts dairy promotion on behalf of dairy farmers in nine Midwest states including Kansas.



## USDA Announces Expansion of Crop Insurance

■ Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns recently announced the expansion of Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite plan of crop insurance to 10 additional states. With this expansion, the plan will now be available in 28 states for the 2007 insurance year. The new additions include Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

The program is a whole-farm revenue plan of insurance, developed by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, providing protection against low revenue due to unavoidable natural disasters and revenue fluctuations. Policies are limited in size to a maximum liability of \$1 million annually. Most farm-raised crops, animals and animal products are eligible for protection.

"This insurance is a useful risk management tool, particularly for small diversified producers," Johanns said. "It is based on individual farm revenue, so producers are offered a great deal of flexibility in how they manage their farm or ranch operations."

## From Kansas Farmers to Kansas Soldiers

■ On Oct. 26, 100 pounds of beef jerky was gathered and sent to two National Guard units from Kansas stationed in Iraq. Beef Jerky is one of the most requested care packages soldiers in Iraq ask for – no refrigeration is necessary, it's easy to carry, tastes great and best of all it comes from home.

Sending the jerky was a combined effort from a Kansas livestock producer, Kansas processor and the 10 county FB associations in the northeastern region of the state. The idea started with the Wyandotte County FB and included collecting \$2,050. Amy's Meats in Jefferson County provided the beef. Named after Amy Saunders, the beef were produced by her husband, Dan, who serves as a Jefferson County FB board member. Shawnee County's Drew Forster did the processing of the beef to jerky.

Each piece of the Kansas product was labeled with the following inscription: *The Farm Bureau farmers and ranchers of Northeast Kansas want to thank you for your service, commitment and courage in all that you do for our country.*



Pictured are: Lyn Spring, Wyandotte County FB; Jeanie Stouts, Shawnee County FB; Sgt. Stuart Ford, Lawrence National Guard and Amy Saunders, "Amy's Meats."

## Kansas Farm Bureau CALENDAR

### 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

# KFB Annual Meeting Agenda

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

*KFB State Headquarters - 2627 KFB Plaza, Manhattan*

7:00 a.m.- Breakfast at KFB

8:30 a.m.

8:00 a.m. Delegate Registration

8:30 a.m.- Top 10 Stupid Thing Families Do to Break Up

11:30 a.m. Their Business™ – Jolene Brown, CSP

9:00 a.m. **Concurrent Workshops**

Farm Bill: Developing Policy That Works for the Farm – Alan States, Kansas farmer, banker and member of AFBF's *Making American Agriculture Productive and Profitable* Committee

The Rural Exodus: What's Happening in our Rural Communities? – Dr. Art Hall, Executive Director of the Kansas Center for Applied Economics

Natural Resources Issues Review – Steve Swaffar, KFB Director of Natural Resources

10:20 a.m. **Concurrent Workshops**

Changes in Kansas Pesticide Law – Adrian Polansky, Secretary, Kansas Dept of Agriculture

The Rural Exodus: What's Happening in our Rural Communities? – Dr. Art Hall, Executive Director of the Kansas Center for Applied Economics

25 x '25: Kansas Agriculture's Role in Renewable Energy – Michael Bowman, 25 x '25 Steering Committee member

11:30 a.m. Lunch at Kansas Farm Bureau

1:00 p.m. **General Session**

Kansas Farm Bureau President Steve Baccus  
American Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Stallman  
Open Discussion of Resolutions

2:45 p.m. **Concurrent Workshops**

How Can We Expand Our Reach into the Classroom?  
Representatives of Cowley, Norton and Republic County FB's  
Rural Development: Working to Sustain and Improve Rural Communities – Chuck Banks, USDA Rural Development Director

Farm Bill: Developing Policy That Works for the Farm  
Alan States, Kansas farmer, banker and member of AFBF's *Making American Agriculture Productive and Profitable* Committee

A Sit Down With Bob and Steve – AFBF President Bob Stallman and KFB President Steve Baccus

*KSU Student Union – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Manhattan*

6:30 p.m. KFB Recognition & Awards Banquet/Ceremony

9:00 p.m. KFB District Caucuses

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

*KFB State Headquarters - 2627 KFB Plaza, Manhattan*


7:00 a.m. Coffee, juice and milk available

8:00 a.m. Voting Delegate Business Session

12:00 p.m. Voting Delegate Lunch

1:00 p.m. Business Session resumes

KFB Annual Meeting adjourns upon completion of Business Session



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Get spam free "must know" info  
Send us your E-mail address

*Farm Leader Letter is a publication of Kansas Farm Bureau and is published twice each month.*

*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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