



## New KFB Members-Only Website Dedicated to the 2007 Farm Bill

Kansas Farm Bureau has created a new, online “one-stop shop” for information about the 2007 farm bill.

The new site is available at [kfb.org](http://kfb.org) or go to [kfb.org/kfbmembers/farmbill07.htm](http://kfb.org/kfbmembers/farmbill07.htm).

“The KFB Governmental Relations staff has been collecting information on the farm bill for the past several months,” said National Policy Director Terry Holdren. “However, much of that information has not been posted for our members due to the sheer volume of the research.”

That’s all changed now. At the top of the site, you will find a link to KFB’s Governmental Relations Division’s farm bill updates.

In addition, the site includes links to Congressional leaders and committees that will shape the farm bill debate. Members will also have access to proposed farm bill legislation

and to Senate and House hearings and testimony.

“We wanted to give members a place to get the latest information as



the farm bill debate moves forward,” Holdren said. “As big of an impact as this legislation will have on our membership, we owe them access to information that’s timely and relevant.”

There’s a link to the USDA that includes farm bill updates and access to the department’s farm bill theme

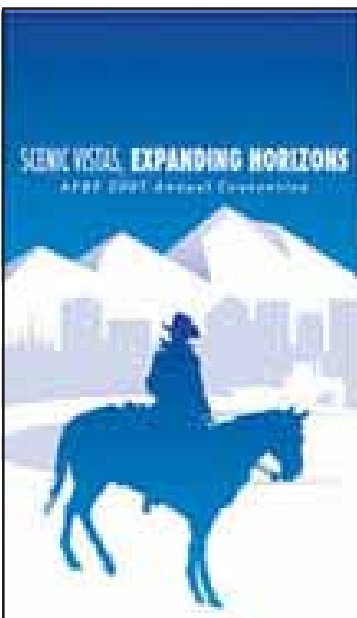
papers. The link even includes a “Farm Bill Comments Reading Room.”

“This is a great way for our members to read the extensive amount of work the USDA has already done on the farm bill,” Holdren said.

A Farm Bureau section includes links to the Kansas Farm Bill Coalition’s report, the AFBF farm bill site, and the text of the Farm Bureau MAAP report.

The largest section of the site includes links to other organizations that have done extensive research on the farm bill, such as The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, which Holdren said has done some key research on the bill. The nation’s grain commodities associations are represented as well.

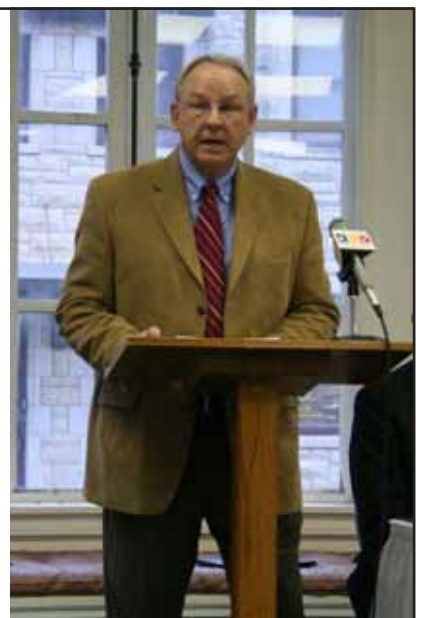
“We’re pleased to offer this new site to our members and encourage them to check it often as the farm bill debate progresses,” Holdren said.



**UTAHBOUND.** The components, makeup and specific direction of the farm bill will be a top agenda item on the voting delegate floor at the annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation Jan. 7-10. The elected Kansas Farm Bureau voting delegates are KFB President Steve Baccus, Ottawa County; KFB VP Edie Dahlsten, McPherson County; Joe Jury, Gray County; E.J. Thompson, Osage County; Jeff Varner, Butler County and Jim Dooley, Jewell County. Robert Herl, Gove County, will serve as first alternate.

### COALITION CONCEPTS.

Jerry McReynolds, KFB 6th district director and member of the Kansas Farm Bill Coalition, presented the groups recommendations for the 2007 farm bill on Dec. 11 in Topeka. Coalition members represent 20 farm, commodity and agriculture organizations. The group released 34 unanimous recommendations. For a list of member organizations and recommendations, go to [kswheat.com](http://kswheat.com).



## Senator Roberts Leans on Korea over Beef Trade

U.S. Senator Pat Roberts has written the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea asking for immediate resumption of beef trade based on sound science in accordance with international standards.

Roberts said the following in the letter to Ambassador Lee Tae-sik, "I write to convey my frustration with continued blockages to the resumption of beef trade between the United States and Korea. I ask for your immediate assistance in establishing a beef trade between our two countries that is based on sound science, according to the World Animal Health Organization's (OIE) international standards."

At issue is Korea's recent rejection of shipments of beef from the United States, including one from Kansas.

In the letter Roberts said, "This rejection seems to be based on nothing more than a continued effort by Korea to build false barriers to trade between our two countries. This is not how two allies, with many mutual interests, should conduct business.



Roberts

"Furthermore," Roberts said, "the recent actions of Korea have created such uncertainty in the area of beef trade that the majority of U.S. companies will be unwilling to take the time, monetary commitment, and risk necessary to try and meet what is a constantly moving target for beef to enter your country. This lack of trade will have a continued negative impact on the Kansas and U.S. beef industries.

"As you know, Kansas is a major producer and exporter of beef and beef products. Prior to the ban on U.S. beef in Korea, your nation represented an important export market for Kansas producers." Roberts said, "The continued false barriers and lack of good faith dealings on this issue has created a continued blockage to trade between our two countries that negatively impacts Kansas producers and the entire economy of the state. Continued barriers to resuming this trade, and unfair actions that are not based on science, will lead me to seriously question Korea's commitment to any other trade and foreign policy agreements with the United States."

## Farmers and Ferrets and Prairie Dogs, Oh My!

Some northwest Kansas farmers and ranchers want to make sure the government considers their well being at least as much as that of prairie dogs and black footed ferrets. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is trying to build public support for its plans to introduce the endangered black footed ferret onto a ranch near Russell Springs.

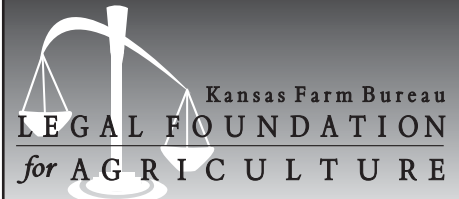
Logan County farmer Lynn Kirkham says the government's best intentions aside – the real world result will be ferrets cohabitating with prairie dogs and that spells trouble for the people who earn their living on the land.

"They come in and establish their colony, dig holes and eat the

vegetation," Kirkham said. "We've been in a drought for several years, so the vegetation is not growing rapidly, so when they come in, it almost looks like a moonscape."



**SHOULDN'T FARMERS TRUMP FERRETS?** (l-r) Rawlins County FB board members Fran Holle, Dick Rush, Cameron Roberts and USFWS Field Supervisor Mike Lavalley talked about ferrets, prairie dogs and the increasing difficulty farmers have earning a living, during a Nov. 28 public meeting at the Logan County fairgrounds in Oakley.



## Year-end Tax Tips

As 2006 draws to a close, there is still time to reduce your 2006 tax bill and plan ahead to 2007. Here are a few tips that may help:

- **Delay or defer income if necessary** – Pushing income into January rather than December will reduce your business income for this year.
  - **Increase business expenses** – Consider buying equipment for your operation to take advantage of the section 179 deduction. The maximum deduction for property placed in service in 2006 is increased to \$108,000.
  - **Make a charitable donation** – Think about donating to your favorite charity. Fourth quarter contributions are a great way to help others while also taking advantage of a nice tax deduction if you itemize.
  - **Prepay your state taxes** – Contemplate making Kansas income or property tax payments before the end of the year in order to take the deduction this year.
  - **Gift giving to family** – You can make gifts up to \$12,000 per year, per person, tax free.
  - **Set up or contribute to a retirement account** – Consider establishing or contributing to a self-employed qualified retirement plan (SEP IRA) or Keogh plan.
  - **Review your portfolio** – If your capital gains are high. Consider taking a loss (*i.e.*, sell some stocks or bonds) to lower these gains.
  - **Make your January mortgage payment before year end** – This allows you to take an additional deduction for interest paid this year.
  - **Home energy efficiency improvement tax credits** – Purchase and installation of energy efficient products may qualify for a tax credit of up to \$500.
  - **Qualifying alternative fuel vehicles** – Purchase of an AFV between Jan. 1, 2005 and Dec. 31, 2010 may yield a tax credit of up to \$4,000.
  - **Child tax credit** – This credit can reduce taxes up to \$1000 for each qualifying child. For more information, consult IRS Tax Tip 2006-45.
- The IRS website, [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov), offers a number of fact sheets, tax tips and a toll-free help number. For more information, please contact Terry Arthur, General Counsel at (785) 587-6614 or visit the KFB Legal Foundation website. For specific tax situations, be sure to consult a competent tax advisor.

# FARM FLASHES . . .

## Travel Beyond the Farm: KFB Offers Ag-related Trips

■ The *KFB Wheat Study Tour* is a two-part program designed to provide Farm Bureau members a bird's eye view of the process involved in developing a crop production forecast and its impact on wheat prices and producer income. The first leg involves two days of touring wheat fields and estimating the size and condition of the Kansas wheat crop using formulas provided by Kansas Agricultural Statistics.

The second portion features visits to the Kansas City Board of Trade and to Washington D.C. to observe the May USDA 'Lock Up' and World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, producing the first official estimate of the size of the Kansas Wheat Crop.

On the *KFB Futures Market Tour*, you will see and experience the two largest agricultural futures markets in the U.S., the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and the Chicago Board of Trade. Tours of each market are mixed with educational seminars from market participants, regulators and commodity analysts.

For prices, details, and registration, visit [kfb.org](http://kfb.org).

## Survey Shows High Demand for Playa Conservation

■ A new survey commissioned by the Playa Lakes Joint Venture found that most landowners with playas on their properties are willing to conserve them and many say the wetlands are a positive presence on their land, primarily because they attract wildlife. Playas are seasonal wetlands found throughout the southern and western High Plains. There are more than 60,000 playas or 500,000 playa acres in a six-state area of Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. More information is available at [pljv.org](http://pljv.org).

## Winner of KFB Ethanol Classic Earns Driver Award

■ The winner of the 2006 Kansas Farm Bureau/Kwik Shop Ethanol Classic Sprint Car Race at the Kansas State Fair last September has been



honored as the 2006 *MidwestDirt.com* Kansas Sprint Car Driver of the Year. J.D. Johnson of Goddard had a breakout year in '06 scoring multiple feature wins across Kansas, including the KFB Ethanol Classic, a race in remembrance of the late Hodgeman County FB farmer and racer Steve King.

## Common Sense Prevails: EPA to Focus on Urban Air Quality

■ In a meeting with the Agriculture Air Quality Task Force recently, USDA Secretary Mike Johanns told the group the Environmental Protection Agency would be concentrating its air quality efforts in areas other than agriculture. Johanns said EPA clarified its position on the regulation of agricultural particulate matter and is encouraging states to focus control programs on urban and industrial issues, rather than agricultural issues.

## Rural Kansas: Heritage Lost? to Air Again on Public TV

■ The KFB television documentary, "Rural Kansas: Heritage Lost?" is doing its job — generating awareness of the impact of shifting populations on rural Kansas families. The program, featuring the honest, heartfelt on-camera stories of many active KFB members, aired nationally on RFD-TV and on public TV and cable systems throughout Kansas in November. It will air again on KPTS, Channel 8, Wichita, on Friday, Dec. 22 at 8 p.m. CST. In addition, each of the 105 county FB offices has a DVD copy.

## Women Managing the Farm Conference Scheduled in Hutch

■ The Women Managing the Farm project provides valuable tools and materials to address production, price, human, financial, and legal risks of farm women. This project develops and present tools especially for farm women to increase overall support through various avenues such as comprehensive training, area networks of support and an online support group.

The project builds upon the knowledge that farm women do play an active role in all aspects of financial and risk management of the farm. The changing dynamics and economics of the farm operation and the farm household lead to the changing roles women play on the farm today.

The Women Managing the Farm 2007 Annual Conference: *Moving Ag Women Forward* is scheduled Feb. 9-10 at the Grain Prairie Hotel & Convention Center, Hutchinson.

## January 1 Deadline Looms for NAP Applications

■ The application closing date for certain crops under the USDA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program is Jan. 1, 2007. Crops eligible for NAP benefits are limited to crops not insurable in the county and are produced for food or fiber. Contact your local Farm Service Agency for more information.

**Kansas Farm Bureau**  
**CALENDAR**

**January 7-10**  
AFBF Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT

**January 26-28**  
YF&R Leaders Conference, Wichita

**January 31-February 1**  
KFB Day at the Statehouse, Topeka

**February 4-10**  
Food Check-Out Week

## KFB celebrates Nat'l Farm-City Week

County Farm Bureau organizations used National Farm-City Week (Nov. 17-23) to build and strengthen relationships between Kansas rural and in-town partners.

Stafford County Farm Bureau hosted a free movie weekend at the Ritz Theatre in Stafford. The movie, "Flicka," was shown throughout a weekend, free of charge to the public. Board members, including Stafford County Farm Bureau President




FARM-CITY

Marlyn Spare (right) handed out free tickets, popcorn, SCFB membership benefit information and Farm City Facts to the 300 who attended.

Johnson County Farm Bureau used Farm-City Week to strengthen their relationship with local media. They met with editors and reporters at *The Kansas City Star*, *Tri-County News* and *Olathe Daily News*. They donated \$100 to the Salvation Army for the Turkey Day event sponsored by 94.1 KFKF. This event provided 2,676 holiday meals for families in need last year. Pictured below l-r are KFB 2nd District Administrator Les Regier, KFKF News Director Randy Birch, KFKF radio personality Mary McKenna and Johnson County FB President Lois Moss.





Find this icon at [kfb.org](http://kfb.org)  
 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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