



## The Growing Chink in the EU's Biotech Armor

As a delegation of state Farm Bureau presidents recently discovered, the European Union isn't as anti-biotech as previously thought. Changes over the past few years in the EU and the continuing success of biotech crop production in other parts of the world have captured the attention of farmers in agriculturally rich countries such as Germany, Hungary and Poland. They want in on the action and are willing to take steps that will legally allow them to produce the crops.

Farmers in the major production regions of Germany, Hungary and Poland are effectively cracking this institutionalized armor by challenging the scientific basis of these anti-biotech perceptions. Producers in Spain and the Czech

Republic have already done so and are reaping the benefits of a small but growing movement toward biotech production.

But don't be fooled – biotech crop production will not happen in the EU quickly and without a significant fight. However, anti-biotech forces are much stronger in the EU compared to the United States.

An American Farm Bureau delegation met last month with producers, including KFB President Steve Baccus, industry associations, university researchers and government officials in Europe to share the American experience with 10 years of biotech production. The Farm Bureau delegation shared personal



**EUROPEAN GRAIN.** Kenneth Dierschke (foreground), Texas Farm Bureau president, and Steve Baccus (right), Kansas Farm Bureau president, look into a seed hopper while visiting an organic farm in Germany.

experiences with producing biotech crops, both the benefits achieved and the obstacles that had to be overcome.



### PRIMED FOR PROFITS

Success or failure in farming can hinge on choosing the best time to market your crops. As with many other businesses, farmers sometimes wait too long to price their bean, corn, milo or wheat 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 \$4.90 to \$5 a bushel range, which is approximately \$1.40 to \$1.50 a bushel more than the 10-year harvest price average (\$3.51) since Freedom to Farm. Corn is trading 60-70 cents a bushel more than the 10-year average. Soybeans pricing offers similar opportunities. Such pricing opportunities extend into 2007 and 2008.

So even though fuel and fertilizer prices remain well above historical averages, the prices producers can receive for their crops can help them recognize a profit. As has traditionally been the case, the biggest reason most farmers will not forward price is the fear and uncertainty of

delivery. What if I don't grow the crop? *Agriculture Solutions* has tools that can help farmers manage that risk.

One such tool is *Revenue Protection Solution*. This program allows farmers to establish a minimum hedged and insured cash flow while maintaining the upside in the market and minimizing delivery risk. *Revenue Protection Solution* is designed to deliver cash flow and financial stability to the entire crop production agriculture value chain.

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).

## KFB Working Hard in Congress to Help Lower Energy Costs

In a letter to Congressman Dennis Moore, KFB President Steve Baccus asked for favorable action on H.R. 4761, the Deep Ocean Energy Resources Act of 2006. This legislation would allow for access to the much needed oil and natural gas resources located in the Outer Continental Shelf.

Baccus stated that KFB has historically been supportive of environmentally-sound exploration and production of oil and natural gas. This legislation would allow for drilling with no restrictions when development occurs more than 100 miles from state shores. Within 50 to

100 miles, states would have to petition to continue leasing bans, while the measure bans development within 50 miles of shores unless states opt-out of the restrictions.

The letter also reiterated that unless we aggressively promote exploration and development of domestic natural gas reserves, we will be continually faced with high energy and fertilizer costs. As the leading agricultural advocacy organization in Kansas, Farm Bureau contends that enacting H.R. 4761 is the appropriate action to help address the issue of skyrocketing energy costs.

## County Presidents Conference Offers Training for Farm Bureau Leaders

The 2006 KFB County Presidents Conference will offer not only the presidents of the 105 county Farm Bureaus a leadership training day but is expanding this year to include county vice presidents. The conference is set for Nov. 16 at the Holiday Inn, Manhattan.

"Many of our county Farm Bureau boards of directors expressed an interest in providing training for not only the president but for the vice president," Sandy Rogers, KFB District Administrator and event co-coordinator said. "They see the value in this day-long leadership opportunity and, to answer this request, KFB has developed additional sessions for vice presidents."

Highlights of the conference include a three-hour interactive workshop entitled "Tough Questions in Tough Situations" led by Jolene Brown, CSP. This session will arm FB leaders with the skills to respond to questions facing agriculture by the media and others in today's society. Workshops throughout the afternoon will focus on the financial and employment aspects of county FB management, tips on how to lead a productive board meeting and strategies to surface agriculture leaders. A panel discussion of successful Farm Bureau programs will be a popular option.

Attendees will be invited to a Pre-Conference Tour and Mixer Kick-Off on Nov. 15.

## KFB Supports Kansas Renewable Energy Conference

Everything you want to know about renewable energy and energy efficiency will be discussed at a conference in Topeka, September 26-27. This two-day conference at the Ramada Inn will feature sessions on Community/Small Wind, Energy Efficiency: Case Studies, Wind Energy, Biomass/

Solar and a Kansas Energy Council Forum on Transportation.

Gov. Sebelius will start the meeting on September 26 at with opening remarks. Kansas Farm Bureau is one of several sponsors for this upcoming meeting on renewable energy and energy efficiency. For more info, go to [agroplastics.com/ksrenew](http://agroplastics.com/ksrenew).



## LIVING TRUSTS

Revocable living trusts are an excellent means of transfer of property to the next generation. They offer many advantages over traditional estate planning documents such as wills.

A living trust is placed into effect during a person's lifetime by executing a trust document and transferring to the trust assets a person desires to be in the trust. The trust will provide for distribution of trust assets upon death, which the trustee will administer at that time.

The advantages of a revocable living trust are as follows:

- ✓ The trust is revocable and amendable.
- ✓ The trust is in effect during a person's lifetime so it can provide for management of trust assets in the event the Grantor of the trust becomes incapacitated.
- ✓ No probate administration is necessary for distribution of assets in the trust, which can save time and expense in estate administration.
- ✓ A trust can be helpful for estate tax planning. If a husband and wife each have a trust, their assets can remain separate and each will use their estate tax exemption for their own trust property. If they do not leave their trust to the surviving spouse, the assets increase the survivor's estate.
- ✓ The Grantor may leave assets in the trust for minor beneficiaries until they attain a certain age and use the trust for their education until that age. The trust may also hold assets for incapacitated beneficiaries during their lifetime and qualify as "special needs trusts," if desired.

A disadvantage of a living trust is it will cost more to establish than a will because there is more work involved but the overall expense, considering administration of the estate, should be substantially less.

For more information, call Terry Arthur, General Counsel, at (785) 587-6614 or visit the KFB Legal Foundation Web page at [kfb.org](http://kfb.org).

# FARM FLASHES . . .

## New From Safety and Agriculture Education

Just added in the county promotional items catalog and on the KFB Web site are the following new resources from KFB's Safety and Agriculture Education division.

✓ *Skin Cancer Prevention* brochure: the earlier we start practicing sun safety, the longer we will keep our skin healthy.

✓ Sun Safety Bookmark: Includes identification information and photos of skin cancer.

✓ *Drive with Reason, It's Farming Season*: Farmers depend on highways while they grow our food and fiber, especially during busy farming seasons. Use these tips to share the road safely.

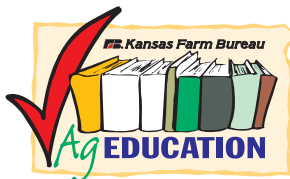
✓ Agriculture Education Bookmark: \$3.60 per 100

✓ Farm Safety Bookmark: \$3.60 per 100.

KFB has put together more than 20 programs that

county volunteers can use to present successful programs on

their own including safety, ag education, biosecurity and health programs. More info is available at: [kfb.org/safety](http://kfb.org/safety) or [kfb.org/ageducation](http://kfb.org/ageducation).



## Additional Counties Approved For Emergency Grazing

USDA's Farm Service Agency in Kansas has announced early emergency grazing of Conservation Reserve Program acreage for five additional counties. This authorization is limited to grazing only and does not permit haying.

A complete list includes:

Cheyenne, Clark, Comanche, Decatur, Edwards, Ellis, Ellsworth, Finney, Ford, Gove, Graham, Grant, Gray, Greeley, Hamilton, Haskell, Hodgeman, Kearny, Lane, Lincoln, Logan, Meade, Morton, Ness, Osborne, Rawlins, Rush, Russell, Scott, Seward, Sherman, Stanton, Stevens, Thomas and Trego, Wallace and Wichita.

## Search is On 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/).

## Six Students Receive Farm Bureau Scholarships

Six Kansas college students have been awarded scholarships from Kansas Farm Bureau for the 2006-2007 academic year. Scholarship applicants must be entering their junior or senior year, enrolled in an agriculture-related field of study and be a son or daughter of a Farm Bureau member in Kansas.

Four \$1,000 scholarships have been presented to the following KSU students: Sarah Sexton, senior majoring in agriculture economics, Dickinson County; Melissa Hildebrand, senior majoring in agriculture communications and journalism, Geary County; Staci DeGeer, junior majoring in food science, Neosho County and Kristina Martin, junior majoring in agribusiness and accounting, Lyon County.

Two \$1,000 scholarships have been presented to the following FHSU students: Tucker Sexson, senior majoring in agronomy, Wallace County and Katie Dinkel, junior majoring in animal science, Hamilton County.

## State Dept. of Wildlife and Parks to Hold Deer Meetings

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) will be holding a series of meetings this summer to take comments and input on their proposal to change the deer hunting and harvest regulations and statutes. During the 2006 legislative session, KDWP presented a set of draft recommendations to legislative committees with the intent of taking public comment on the recommendations later in the year. KDWP is now planning to hold 12 to 15 meetings across the state with locations and dates to be announced soon. Wildlife and Parks will use the comments to refine the proposal into legislation that will be introduced during the 2007 legislative session.

KFB has agreed to co-host one of these meetings with KDWP and the Kansas Livestock Association. The meeting will be August 1 at the Heritage Center, 1056 SE Isbel Road, Medicine Lodge. KFB is encouraging landowners with significant financial interests in the deer hunting industry, significant crop damage from deer, or other deer related interests to attend this meeting.

## Kansas Farm Bureau CALENDAR

### July 17-18

Resolutions Committee Meeting, Manhattan

### July 25

KFB No-till Workshop, Hays

### July 31, Aug 1

KFB Board Meeting, Manhattan

### August 1

Farm Family of the Year Applications due

### August 15

Natural Resources Award Applications due

### 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



**BUY ETHANOL.** The push for consumers to learn more and use more renewable fuels is still prevalent in county Farm Bureaus across Kansas. Barton County Farm Bureau recently held an ethanol rally in Great Bend, where volunteer FB members pumped more than 1,400 gallons of ethanol, offered full service to customers, were featured on Eagle County radio and distributed info on the benefits of ethanol-blended fuel. Pictured is Barton County FB Women's Chair Linda Essmiller fueling a customer's vehicle.

### County FB's Asked to Recognize Local Ag Leader

Do you know of a Farm Bureau member who has shown outstanding leadership and service to Kansas agriculture? If so, please consider nominating them for the Kansas Farm Bureau Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award.

The deadline is near but there is still time to recognize a leader who has made a difference in your community. Nominations must be submitted by the county Farm Bureau association no later than July 24. Nominees will be judged by the KFB Distinguished Service to Ag Award Committee and the award will be presented at the KFB Annual Meeting in November.

Application forms were recently mailed to each county Farm Bureau office. Once complete, please mail nominations to KFB Executive Assistant Kerry Spencer, 2627 KFB Plaza, Manhattan, KS 66503.



**PRODUCERS GATHERED** for a field tour to recognize the 20th Anniversary of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) on June 7 in Dickinson County. KFB Natural Resources Director Steve Swaffar (pictured above) was in attendance on the tour, which featured filter strips, rare and declining habitat, contour grass strip terraces and upland bird habitat buffers. Swaffar represents the Farm Bureau membership on the Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams.



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.

Editor: Rhonda McCurry E-mail: [mccurryr@kfb.org](mailto:mccurryr@kfb.org)

**The Growing Chink in the EU's Biotech Armor**

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
MANHATTAN, KS 66502  
PERMIT NO. 103

**Kansas Farm Bureau**  
P.O. Box 3500  
Manhattan, KS 66505