



Defend Your Interests: Step Up and Serve on Basin Advisory Committee

Recently, the Kansas Water Authority approved a plan to fill select vacant slots on Basin Advisory Committee's (BAC) with individuals recommended by various nominating user groups, including Kansas Farm Bureau. Our responsibility is to forward eligible candidates to represent agriculture at the BAC level of Kansas water policy development.

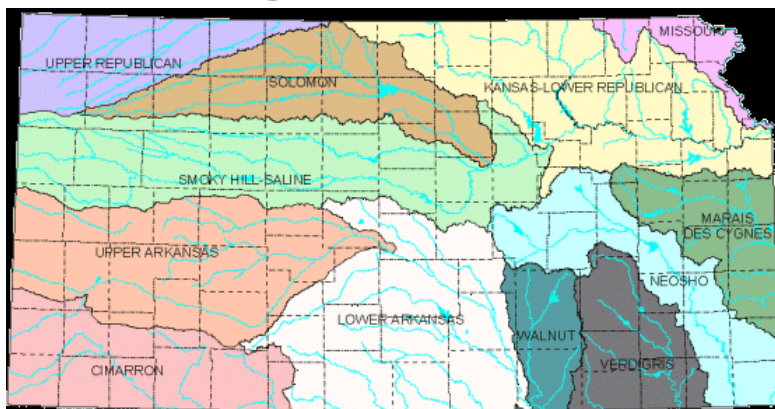
Current Basin Advisory Committee membership terms have expired and will be filled, half this year and half in 2007. The deadline for submitting applications for the first round of vacancies is Oct. 15. Consequently, we need members to step forward and apply for a vacant position.

"Water policy decisions that directly impact your livelihood start at these Basin Advisory Committee meetings," said Kent Askren, KFB's Water Resources specialist. "Rest assured, the decisions will be made – with or without

active farmer/rancher input."

There are seven core membership groups on each BAC, with agriculture being one of the core groups. KFB is responsible for forwarding applicants to fill the agricultural positions but many in our membership may also qualify to fill other openings. For complete details, go to kwo.org/BACs/Basin%20Advisory%20Committees.htm.

Please take this opportunity to evaluate your role in this important aspect of our state water policy process. Consider serving yourself, encourage another KFB to serve or raise this issue with your county board.



"There's no doubt policy discussions related to water will only intensify in the future," said Steve Baccus, president of Kansas Farm Bureau. "With Farm Bureau leaders actively serving on these Basin Advisory Committees, we can guide, direct and influence the debate and eventual decision."

For more info, contact Kent Askren at (785) 234-4535.



GREATER OPPORTUNITIES NOW

It's no secret that choosing the best time to market your crops is key. Today's successful producer also must be prudent in his/her use of crop insurance coverage. Combining the two is a sure-fire recipe for the potential of increased revenue.

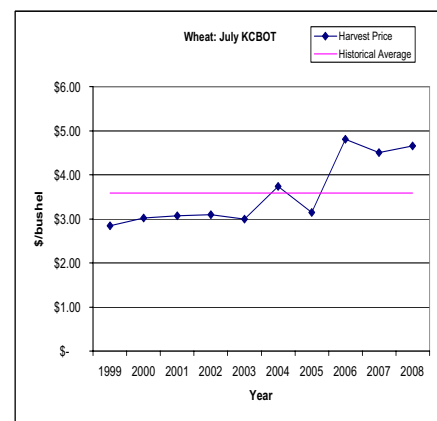
Current commodity prices continue to trade considerably higher than historical averages. Today's wheat futures for July '07 are trading at \$4.50 a bushel while '08 are trading at \$4.65. These prices are approximately \$1 to \$1.20 a bushel more than the 10-year harvest price average of \$3.43.

KCBOT FUTURES		APH		2007 \$/ac.>Avg.	
KCN07	\$ 4.5000	38		\$34.43	
KCN08	\$ 4.6500	INSURED YIELD STRIKE	85%	2008 \$/ac.>Avg.	\$39.28
				> 10 Yr. Avg.	\$73.71
"MARKED TO MARKET" FARM UNIT CASH FLOW VALUE					

If today's producer takes advantage of the current market increases and buys up higher levels of crop insurance coverage this can result in increased revenue protection. As illustrated in the chart, a yield strike at 85 percent at the 38 bushel APH (actual production history) when combined with today's commodity prices results in enhanced revenue protection of \$34.43 for 2007 wheat and \$39.28 for 2008 wheat.

Kansas Farm Bureau's *Agriculture Solutions* is a program that allows farmers the opportunity to establish a minimum hedged and insured cash flow, while maintaining the upside in the market and minimizing delivery risk.

To learn more, contact Dave Spears at spearsd@kfb.org.



10 Year Avg.	Harvest Price
	\$3.43

Support for Wind-Based Electricity Evident Through KEC and KFB

Last month, the Kansas Energy Council (KEC) approved draft policy recommendations for release to the public for review and comment. Among interest to FB members includes the KEC's goal to increase opportunities to generate wind-based electricity through both community wind projects owned by Kansas investors and an additional large-scale wind farm.

The proposed draft would grant the Kansas Corporation Commission the authority to consider possible external costs and benefits when evaluating wind-based purchase power agreements submitted for approval by the jurisdictional utilities. This policy would apply to a total of 200 MW of new contracted wind capacity, with up to 100 MW dedicated to contracts with community wind developers.

In addition, a plan was drafted for a statewide energy conservation program

that would consist of a standardized, utility-sponsored energy conservation audit and a streamlined process to facilitate both the financing and installation of cost-effective energy conservation measures.

Through its grassroots policy development process, FB members have drafted language in support of a statewide energy plan that promotes the use of wind energy, ethanol and biodiesel and the use of tax credits and other incentives to achieve this plan.

During the KFB annual meeting in November, voting delegates will consider language that supports current law to allow excess power generated by individually owned and operated wind turbines to be sold to utility companies at 150% of the avoided cost of production. KFB encourages the practice of net billing as a mechanism to measure production and appropriately compensate individual producers.

First State Land Trust Dedicated

The Kansas Land Trust (KLT) has purchased the first conservation easement to be funded in part by state dollars. The easement will preserve 500 acres of tallgrass prairie in the Flint Hills. Under this voluntary program, landowners retain their rights to use the property for agriculture.

A ceremony was held Sept. 16 at RK Cattle Company in Morris County. Activities included a chuckwagon meal and demonstrations of ranching practices by landowners Kent and Rose Bacon.

The prairie includes grass-covered highlands with a creek and riparian woodlands in the lowland. The Bacons want to ensure that their land will be

preserved as undeveloped rangeland in perpetuity and believe the conservation easement is leaving a legacy for future generations.

KLT was able to purchase the conservation easement using funding from the federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) along with funding from the State of Kansas. The State Conservation Commission provided the 25 percent matching funds and the Bacons donated 25 percent of the easement value, needed in order to gain the final 50 percent from FRPP, the program administered by USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service.

For more info, contact the Kansas Land Trust at (785) 749-3297.



Kansas Fence Laws: Problems and Solutions

Possibly one of the most contentious areas involving rural landowners in Kansas is disputes over partition fences. Many times adjoining landowners come to an agreement on how to allocate the responsibility between the parties to build, maintain or repair a partition fence. If the parties reach an agreement, we suggest they put details in writing and record it at the county Register of Deeds office. However, if a dispute arises and an agreement cannot be reached, what can you do to resolve this type of issue?

Kansas law offers a method of settling these problems. Adjoining landowners can seek the assistance of two county commissioners in the county where the fence is located. These individuals are called "fence viewers."

When controversies arise regarding the rights and responsibilities of the respective parties of a partition fence, either landowner may apply to the fence viewers to resolve their disagreement. The fence viewers will evaluate the fence, then provide a written decision as to the party's obligations to build, maintain or repair. The decision of the fence viewers will be recorded at the Register of Deeds office in the county where the fence is located. This decision of the fence viewers is final, non-appealable and binding upon the parties and all succeeding occupants of the land.

If either party decides to disregard the ruling of the fence viewers, the other party may erect, repair or maintain the entire fence and charge the nonperforming party for its share of the cost of the fence, plus interest and attorney fees, if legal action is necessary for collection. In any event, it remains clear that good fences make good neighbors.

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 at kfb.org/kfblegalfoundation. For specific situations be sure to consult a lawyer.

LEADERS IN ACTION. During the annual Kansas Farm Bureau Legislative Leadership Breakfast at the State Fair in Hutchinson, the chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee said Congress cannot merely extend the current Farm Bill but must re-write some sections next year to protect American farmers from foreign lawsuits and make the bill work the way it was intended. Sen. Saxby Chambliss, a Republican from Georgia, will be a key player in crafting the 2007 Farm Bill. Pictured (l to r) are Chambliss, U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts and KFB President Steve Baccus.



FARM FLASHES . . .

Mark Your Calendar for Pawnee IGUCA Meeting

■ The Kansas Department of Agriculture will offer a public hearing regarding the expansion of the existing Pawnee Intensive Groundwater Use Control Area (IGUCA) and impose corrective measures to deal with over-development of alluvial, Ogallala and Dakota aquifers.

At 10 a.m. on Oct. 24, the Chief Engineer will conduct a hearing for those who hold water rights or have a legal interest in the affected area. The hearing will provide information for evaluation before making a ruling on whether to expand the IGUCA and what corrective controls to implement.

The following day, Oct. 25, at Larned City Hall, public comments may be submitted to the hearing officer from 7-9 p.m. by anyone with written or verbal testimony relevant to the IGUCA expansion.

Osborne County Couple Receive FB's Stewardship Award

■ The Kansas Farm Bureau Natural Resources Award recognizes the efforts of farmers and ranchers who practice and implement outstanding land stewardship and conservation. The first place winner for 2006 is Jay and Stacey Carswell, Osborne County. Jay and Stacey manage a diversified livestock and cropping operation consisting of cattle, swine, wheat, corn sunflowers, milo, soybeans and alfalfa. Their farm operation is 100% no-till and relies on annual soil sampling for fertility needs.

The Carswell's livestock operation utilizes a rotational grazing system, as well as feeding pens strategically placed away from water sources. By taking advantage of EQIP, they installed cross fencing and water tanks to distribute livestock more widely across pastures. They also use the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program to install buffer and filter strips along creeks and adjacent to livestock pens. The Carswell's also qualified for the Conservation Security Program.

Former KFB Staffer/Kansas Passes in Minneapolis, MN

■ Joseph Daniel Smerchek, 96, of Minneapolis, Minn., died Aug. 31. He was born Oct. 7, 1909 in Garnett, the son of Frank S. and Lottie Smerchek. After graduating from Garnett High School, he received a bachelor's degree at Kansas State University in 1932. He was a county agent in Lane, Pratt and Sumner counties and was assistant state 4-H Club leader.

Smerchek joined the KFB staff in 1945 serving as secretary-treasurer until 1970, then was appointed director of special programs. One of his duties in this position was to work with exchange farm students from Japan who worked on Kansas farms. He retired in 1972.

He was president of the Lions Club of Wellington and Manhattan and also served as district governor. Joseph was president of the Kansas State University Alumni Association from 1959 to 1960 and a member of the Wildcat Club and the Alley Cat Club.

Contributions may be made to the Kansas State University Endowment Association for the Joe and Helen Smerchek Memorial Scholarship Fund.

YF&Rs to Hold KSU Football Tailgate

■ Attention KSU fans: let us know if you're interested in gathering with your peers for a KSU football tailgate event on Oct. 7 in Manhattan. K-State will face Big 12 conference opponent Oklahoma State that day and interested ticket-holders are asked to RSVP their attendance to Rhonda McCurry at mccurryr@kfb.org or (785) 587-6826. Please RSVP by Sept. 25.

Young farmer/rancher tailgaters are asked to bring chairs and chips or cookies. Pop and water will be provided to the first 50 attendees. YF&Rs should meet two hours before kick-off in the KSU Agronomy farm parking area, north of Bill Snyder Family Stadium (on Kimball Ave). Families are welcome. Look for the purple YF&R banner and your fellow young producers and celebrate K-State football.

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. Young farmers and ranchers (YF&R) can choose from contests based on public speaking and leadership; financial, marketing and risk management success and county Farm Bureau involvement. 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 have the chance to 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. Dodge, a national YF&R program sponsor, is offering \$500 cash awards for the top prize winners of each state level competition.

YF&R competitions are hosted by the state YF&R committee. Farm Bureau members can obtain registration forms, awards and prizes and contest details at their county Farm Bureau office or at kfb.org/yfr.

Kansas Farm Bureau CALENDAR

November 1

YF&R Contest Applications due
(Achievement Award, Discussion Meet, Excellence in Ag)

November 16


KFB Presidents Conference,
Manhattan

November 17-18

KFB Annual Meeting, Manhattan

2006 Kansas Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Schedule

<p>November 15 Presidents Conference, Pre-conference Activities</p>	<p>10:30 a.m. Discussion Meet Semi-finals Lunch at KFB</p>
<p>November 16 Presidents Conference YF&R committee meeting Women's Committee meeting</p>	<p>1 p.m. General Session – President's Address Steve Baccus, KFB President Bob Stallman, AFBF President Announce Discussion Meet Final Four Open discussion of resolutions</p>
<p>November 17 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Registration, KFB headquarters 8:30 a.m. Discussion Meet 1st Round <i>Jolene Brown - "Top 10 Stupid Things Families Do To Break Up Their Business"</i> <i>SPONSORED BY KFB LEGAL FOUNDATION</i></p>	<p>2:45 p.m. Workshops III Achievement Award competition Excellence in Ag competition 4 p.m. Discussion Meet Final Four 6:30 p.m. Recognition and Awards Banquet and Ceremony, KSU Student Union 9 p.m. District Caucuses</p>
<p>9 a.m. Workshops I 9:15 a.m. Discussion Meet 2nd Round 10 a.m. Membership and Promotions Committee meeting 10:20 a.m. Workshops II</p>	<p>November 18 8:10 a.m. Business Session Noon Voting Delegate Lunch 1 p.m. Business Session resumes</p>



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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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