



## Farm Bureau Reviews Proposed Changes to Water Quality Standards

Your KFB Natural Resource staff in Topeka has been monitoring proposed changes from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) that could affect your stream or local lake. According to KFB Natural Resources Director Steve Swaffar, KDHE proposed to change the designated use of 658 stream segments and 89 lakes. The proposals deal primarily with recreational uses for streams and field studies (Use Attainability Analyses), which were mandated by state law passed during the 2001 legislative session.

Field studies were conducted between April 1 and October 31, 2004 to make these determinations. KDHE's findings show 79 stream segments are proposed to no longer be classified – or no longer regulated – and 352 segments are proposed for secondary contact recreation, which includes activities like wading, fishing and hunting. Lastly, 223 segments have been proposed for primary contact recreation, namely

swimming type of activities where ingestion of water is probable.

Although KFB did not offer formal comments during this set of revisions, Swaffar examined a sampling of the data to determine if proposals were reasonable for farmers and ranchers. He says in the next two years, many of these segments will be reexamined for aquatic life determinations and to determine if evidence exists that small streams should remain classified based on their sustainability of aquatic life.

"This proposal is the first of several changes to designate uses KDHE must perform," Swaffar says. "We are watching very closely that they follow the letter of the law and that streams and other surface waters are not being unnecessarily regulated. The next two years will be very telling for water quality standards in Kansas."

For more information or questions, contact Swaffar or KFB Water Resources Specialist Kent Askren at (785) 234-4535.



### MARKET PRICES PROVIDE POTENTIAL

Without question the *Good 'Ole Days* are gone. No more \$1.50 a gallon diesel prices. No more \$150-\$200 a ton fertilizer. That's the reality of today's farming expense picture.

That said, today's markets aren't the same as past years either. Wheat is considerably higher than it was two, three or four years ago. Looking at futures, wheat prices are flirting with \$5. That's considerably higher than historical levels. Such markets are providing some timely and lucrative opportunities.

With wheat trading in this high \$4-per-bushel-range (which is approximately \$1.40 per bushel more than the 10-year harvest price average of \$3.5) since *Freedom to Farm* was implemented, farmers can make it work for their operations.

For example, if wheat is approximately \$1.40 a bushel more than this aforementioned average, farmers can afford to pay \$3 per gallon for fuel (four times more) and \$650 per ton for fertilizer (three to four times as much) and be net dollars in the same cash position. While fertilizer and fuel prices are historically high, market prices are high also and allow farmers to be net cash dollars ahead – if they take advantage of prices.

One tool that can help farmers to establish a minimum hedged position and ensured cash flow while maintaining the upside in the market is Farm Bureau's *Agriculture Solutions* program Revenue Protection Solution. To learn more, contact Dave Spears at [spearsd@kfb.org](mailto:spearsd@kfb.org).



**OUR LAND, OUR LIVES.** Landowner rights are now secure thanks to the signing of SB 323 regarding eminent domain. The bill, signed by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius this month, prohibits the use of eminent domain for private economic development and will transition Kansas from

one of the most lenient states in the nation to one of the strictest, regarding use of eminent domain. In addition, the Governor signed SB 365, which creates a free-standing estate tax that will sunset on January 1, 2010. Pictured far left is KFB G.R. State Director Brad Harrelson and second from right, KFB G.R. Local Director Terry Holdren.

## Marshall County FB Protecting Landowner Rights

In a recent letter to their county commission, Marshall County Farm Bureau took the initiative of offering input and solutions for a proposed Rails-to-Trails plan. The Nebraska Trails Foundation is planning a development in the county titled the Homestead Recreational Corridor Master Plan to develop a trail north of Marysville on an abandoned railroad track. Marshall County Farm Bureau supports the concept of Rails-to-Trails but also raised concerns for the individual landowners who raise corn, soybeans, wheat and pasture cattle on the proposed site.

Some of the proposed acreage has been in these farm families since the late 1880s. The railroad company gained access to this area lawfully through a right-of-way easement. Many landowners rightly believed that if the railroad company ever discontinued services the land would revert back to the landowner.

## Legislation Introduced Supporting American Production of Renewable Fuels

In an effort to reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil, Congressman Jerry Moran, R-Kan., introduced H.R. 5346, the Alternative Energy Refueling System Act of 2006. This legislation would provide incentives for gas station owners to install alternative fuel tanks to offer greater access to fuels containing E-85 ethanol and biodiesel.

KFB President Steve Baccus offered a letter of support to Moran, stating there are crops growing right here in America that can help decrease U.S. dependence on foreign oil.

With the passage of the National Rails to Trails Act, the landowners' rights were taken away from them without compensation. The Kansas Recreational Trails Act places the burden of trail regulation and enforcement on local and county governments. This mechanism places the burden of regulation and enforcement of state rules with the local government, which in this case is Marshall County Commission.

To insure this privacy and protection of landowners' rights, the county FB requested the recreational trail group post a cash bond with Marshall County in the amount of \$200,000, in addition to the liability insurance in the amount of \$2,000,000. The bond should be conditioned on the recreational group's ability to perform the task of maintaining the trail, not for just this coming year but for each and every year in a reasonable and prudent fashion, pursuant to state statute.

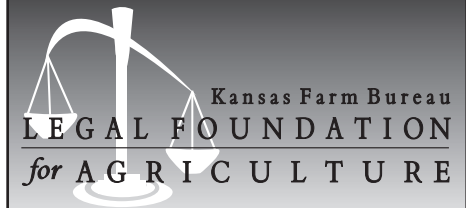
Kansas farmers are eager to have more access to alternative fuels but access to E-85 or alternative fuel stations is not always close by. Moran's bill provides incentives for gasoline station owners to install alternative systems and could increase the number of alternative fuel pumps in Kansas and across the nation. The incentive is a tax credit for up to 30% of the cost to install an alternative energy refueling system. In addition, the tax credit does not increase taxes because it is funded by interest on the Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Trust Fund.

## Farm Bureau Members: Offer Input on Wind Energy

As a member of the state's largest agriculture advocacy organization, please take a few minutes to offer input on the public policy that affects your bottom line. Right now, Farm Bureau members have the opportunity to go to [kfb.org](http://kfb.org), and fill out an electronic policy development questionnaire (PDQ).

The PDQ is designed to offer members an easy and efficient way to offer input on national, state and local issues affecting Kansas agriculture. Farmers and ranchers are asked to respond to three specific questionnaires regarding current ag issues and Farm Bureau resolutions.

The first PDQ deals with wind energy. Go to [kfb.org](http://kfb.org) and use your member login to access the questionnaire and background info.



## THE NEED FOR WILLS

A common form of estate planning involves the use of a Last Will & Testament. Wills have been partially replaced by other means of transfer of a person's estate that do not require probate administration but are still an important part of the estate planning process.

A will is a document that sets forth how a person desires to transfer their estate at their death. Normally, wills do not cover assets held in joint tenancy, payable or transfer on death or that have beneficiary designations such as life insurance, annuities and IRA's.

A will is often used to name a guardian and conservator for minor children. The will also designates an executor, who is the person that will administer the estate.

The drawback to using a will to distribute one's estate is that it must be admitted to probate within six months after death (in Kansas) to be valid to transfer property in the estate. This can delay distribution of property to the beneficiaries, as an estate cannot be closed and property distributed sooner than 6 months after a person's death. Probate proceedings are open to public inspection, so there is no confidentiality as to a deceased person's assets. Probate administration can be an expensive way to transfer property in an estate, as there is considerable attorney work in preparing pleadings and attending court hearings. Also, the executor who manages the estate is entitled to a fee for their work.

An attorney should be contacted to draft and help execute a will, as they must be drafted and signed in a certain manner to be valid.

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 . . .

## Sumner and Cowley County Farm Bureaus Consider Ethanol

■ Two county Farm Bureaus and local producers are working together to bring an ethanol plant to southern Kansas. The group is considering all needs, including location, size, water needs, transportation, commercial and natural resources and profitability. The Farm Bureau leaders hope to utilize crops within a 50-mile radius and increase retail market prices, while decreasing overall dependence on imported fuels. The next step is to launch an ethanol production facility feasibility study. Support is welcome. For more info, contact Sumner or Cowley County Farm Bureau or go to [sckbioenergy.com](http://sckbioenergy.com).

## Time to Honor Outstanding Farm Bureau Families

■ Each year, county Farm Bureaus recognize members who have contributed to the improvement of agriculture, their community and the county Farm Bureau. Through the Farm Family of the Year program, farmers and ranchers are recognized at county annual meetings and receive special recognition at the Kansas State Fair. County-level farm family names are forwarded to KFB for a Farm Family of the Year selection process. The state award includes recognition at the KFB Annual Meeting, along with lodging and airfare for an out-of-state agriculture trip for two family members from each of the ten Farm Bureau districts. Application deadline for the state award selection process is August 1. For more information, contact Angie Cohorst at [cohorsta@kfb.org](mailto:cohorsta@kfb.org).

## Opportunity Awaits for Unique Agriculture Experience

■ The KFB Masters Program is designed to further the development of a person's insight into agriculture and Farm Bureau's role in the state's number one industry. Six capsules are designed to cover the course

## Community Development Training For Growing Areas

■ Landowners who are affected by the increasing growth of Fort Riley should make plans to attend USDA's Community Development Academy, June 17, June 24 or July 12. The Academy will take place at KFB Headquarters, Manhattan and will offer training to local leaders to assist in planning for the challenges and opportunities resulting from the population growth around Fort Riley. Topics include how to support more affordable local housing, improve rural healthcare services and anticipate community infrastructure needs.

Reservations should be made by June 9 at [www.regonline.com/96938](http://www.regonline.com/96938).

## Smith County FB Member Appointed to Zoning Board

■ Local government is where rubber meets the road on decisions that impact our farmers and ranchers and Smith County Farm Bureau is now at that table. Last month, Smith County Farm Bureau President David Sasse was appointed to the local zoning committee, consisting of nine farmers, ranchers and/or agribusiness owners. Smith County Commissioners are also requesting assistance from KFB Legal Foundation Director Mike Irvin and KFB Governmental Relations Local Director Terry Holdren to establish an ag-friendly master plan that could be used by counties working toward adopting zoning policies. KFB has been working with the Kansas Livestock Association to consider development of such a plan.

curriculum by traveling throughout the state. Those interested in the program must submit an application by July 1. For more information, contact Charlie Sargent at [sargentc@kfb.org](mailto:sargentc@kfb.org) or (785) 587-6112.

## KFB Updates Members on Regulatory Compliance

■ KFB's Safety and Ag Education Division will help keep Farm Bureau members current on need-to-know issues regarding regulatory compliance for agriculture. Information will be updated on the KFB Web site, [kfb.org](http://kfb.org), including measures to prevent disease associated with animals in public settings; farm equipment-required lights; hazardous materials transportation; agriculture transportation handbook on state and federal statutes; rules and exemptions for transporting agricultural goods on highways and worker protection standards.

## Farm Bureau Women: Attend AFBF Annual Meeting

■ Two female leaders in Farm Bureau's even numbered districts will have the opportunity to attend the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting, January 7-10, 2007 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Applications will be accepted until August 1 and two FB members will be selected to have their expenses paid during the trip. Delegates will be expected to attend the women's sessions during AFBF annual meeting. FB women from uneven numbered Farm Bureau districts will be selected for the 2008 AFBF annual meeting. For an application, go to [kfb.org/women](http://kfb.org/women).

### Kansas Farm Bureau CALENDAR

#### July 1

KFB Master's program application deadline

#### August 1

Farm Family of the Year applications due

#### August 28

KFB Governor's Farm and Ranch Tour, Smith and Jewell Counties


### Kansas Senator Takes Stand In Support of Ethanol Tariffs

In a recent opinion-editorial piece, U.S. Senator Sam Brownback, R-Kan., offered support to keep the 54 cent-per-gallon tariff imposed on ethanol imported from foreign countries. Brownback recognizes that gas prices have spiraled and lots of ideas are floating on how American can solve our energy problems. The Senator says the U.S. is far from a shortage that requires drastic measures like removing the tariff on imported ethanol.

He adds that lifting the ethanol import tariff would cause American taxpayers to effectively subsidize foreign ethanol because American ethanol producers receive a tax credit regardless of where they get their ethanol. Brownback also stated ethanol provides rural jobs and new markets for farmers and that ethanol should be part of a bigger-picture strategy for reducing American dependence on foreign oil.



**PINCH POINTS.** McPherson County Farm Bureau Safety Chair Steve Penner (pictured left) helped children understand the dangers involved in PTO shafts at a local Safety Day activity. County Extension Agent Dale Ladd, along with Farm Bureau member Arlyss Schroeder, were on hand to talk about pinch points on farm equipment and McPherson Fire & Rescue and KFB Safety and Ag Education Manager Jeff Sutton demonstrated how they remove victims trapped in farm accidents.



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