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Kansas Farm Bureau Earns Unprecedented Third Consecutive Pinnacle Award

MANHATTAN – For an unprecedented third consecutive year, Kansas Farm Bureau has earned the highest recognition honor from the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The *Pinnacle Award* honors outstanding program achievement combined with membership growth. The award was announced and presented during this week's 2011 annual convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation in Atlanta, Ga.

"This award honors the best of the best," said Ottawa County farmer Steve Baccus, who serves as president of Kansas Farm Bureau. "To be recognized for a third year in a row is a tremendous honor. The credit goes directly to our dedicated grassroots members, the commitment of our 105 county boards and our talented professional staff."

In a world, country and state where rural voices are now a distinct minority, the hard work exemplified by the *Pinnacle Award* has never been more important.

Kansas Farm Bureau earned the honor by standing up for farm families in public policy debates in the Statehouse and the courthouse and by reaching those who lack a direct connection with agriculture and rural living through education, awareness and promotion.

In addition to earning their third consecutive *Pinnacle Award*, Kansas Farm Bureau was honored with five *Awards of Excellence* and a pair of *President's Awards* for rural advocacy work done in agriculture education/promotion, leadership development, member services, policy implementation and public relations/information.

Two Kansas county Farm Bureau organizations were among 15 nationwide honored in Atlanta for innovative new programs. The Kingman County Farm Bureau brought together 21 county Farm Bureaus to establish a permanent agriculture exhibit, "Agmagination" at Exploration Place, a Wichita-based science and discovery center.

Barton County Farm Bureau developed and implemented a premier voluntary safety program aimed at saving lives and livestock. Working with local law enforcement, livestock owners are quickly notified through 911 dispatchers should livestock stray from pastures.

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.