

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 20, 2010

**Grassroots Farmer/Rancher Strength on Display at Kansas Farm Bureau Annual Meeting**

MANHATTAN – Farmers and rancher voting delegates from the state's leading agriculture/rural advocacy organization have adopted their policy roadmap for 2011 and elected their leadership.

The 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of Kansas Farm Bureau adjourned this afternoon, with voting delegates adopting consensus positions on a wide range of public policies that impact the conscious choices Farm Bureau members have made to build their lives in rural Kansas.

Negotiation of the 2012 Farm Bill will occur during a time of mounting fiscal pressures and increasing pressures to amend traditional production agriculture supports. The Farm Bureau voting delegates in Kansas adopted these broad parameters on federal farm policy: Maintenance of baseline farm bill funds, fiscally responsible supports and compliance with existing international trade obligations.

In addition, the Kansans will encourage Congress to focus farm safety net efforts on down-side risk protection, risk management tools, disaster assistance and direct payments.

The policy resolutions adopted by voting delegates in Manhattan are now KFB's 2011 policy roadmap for agriculture advocacy efforts before local governments, the state legislature and the U.S. Congress. The resolutions adopted are the result of a yearlong grassroots effort, involving input from county Farm Bureau members throughout Kansas.

Ottawa County grain farmer Steve Baccus was re-elected to a two-year term as president of Kansas Farm Bureau.

"I am humbled and honored by the support of my fellow farmers and ranchers," Baccus said. "I pledge to do all within my power to continue to carry the message of agriculture and rural Kansas everywhere it needs to be heard."

Re-elected to the Kansas Farm Bureau Board of Directors were George Pretz, Miami County; Bob Voegelé, Cowley County; Jerry McReynolds, Rooks County and Linda Franklin, Sherman County.

Newly-elected to the KFB Board was Gray County farmer Joe Jury, who will represent KFB's 8<sup>th</sup> geographic district of southwest-central Kansas.

The delegates were visited by a number of their elected leaders, who pledged to work closely with the organization on policy issues impacting their families and their operations.

U.S. Sen.-elect Jerry Moran thanked the Farm Bureau faithful for their steadfast support during his years of service in the U.S. House and pledged the same level of commitment to agriculture and rural issues while serving as a in the U.S. Senate.

Attorney General-elect Derek Schmidt, who pledged to stand up for Kansans' rights on issues of federal government overreach, struck a similar tone, citing grassroots Farm Bureau engagement as essential to the public dialogue.

U.S. Rep Lynn Jenkins received her first *Friend of Farm Bureau Award* for her unwavering support of policy issues important to farmers and ranchers.

"You can take the girl off the farm," Rep. Jenkins said. "But you can't take the farm out of the girl."

The Farm Bureau voting delegates also welcomed U.S. Rep.-elect Mike Pompeo of the 4<sup>th</sup> U.S. House District, who encouraged existing office-holders in the current lame-duck session of Congress, to take positive action on the death tax.

"If action is not taken before the end of the year, the estate tax rate will go "from zero to 'oh my goodness,'" said Pompeo, who was presented with a model of combine constructed in Harvey County, to place in his office in Washington, as a reminder of his commitment to agriculture and rural Kansas.

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.