



Workshops Focus on Women in Farming

by Joanna Voigt



Red Tractor Farm got the jump on Spring in their high tunnel on their farm near Lawrence, Ks. About 40 women attended their farm tour as part of KRC's series of Women in Farming Workshops in Lawrence on March 14. The workshop featured presentations on available resources for women such as conservation, loan programs, and food safety practices for production and marketing. Photo J. Voigt.

KRC's series of four "Women in Farming" Risk Management Education Workshops is underway with workshops held in Lawrence on March 14 and in Bird City on March 28. Additional workshops are scheduled for May 9 in Linn, Kansas, and July 11 in Emporia, Kansas.

Women's interest in actively farming is on the rise, as the number of women who control farmland is increasing and more young women consider agriculture as a career. Recently, the number of women involved in specialty crops and small livestock production has grown significantly, driven by interest in local and regional food systems.

KRC's workshops are designed to fill a need for farming education specific to women farmers, as identified in surveys and evaluations from our series of women and conservation workshops in 2013. *Contd. on page 8*

Kansas Enters Deep Political Waters: Serious Policy Challenges, Risks & Opportunities Lie Ahead

by Paul Johnson

Kansas is facing a series of serious policy challenges and opportunities. A few are actually being discussed but most go undebated. First and foremost, the most serious challenge is a self-inflicted revenue crisis that casts a shadow over the future.

Caught in this shadow is the fate of public education, school funding and the future of smaller school districts. Health care hangs in the balance of declining revenues as medical providers struggle with lower rates and thousands of Kansans go uninsured.

Water challenges are everywhere as Kansas drains the Ogallala aquifer and drinking water supplies are diminished by sedimentation in our reservoirs. Fossil fuel prices are slated to increase while energy efficiency and conservation in Kansas remains underfunded. These challenges and opportunities demand policy leadership and a focused debate - but Kansas citizens wait.

Revenue and Taxes. The revenue challenge is real and threatens the quality of life Kansans have enjoyed.

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Rural Papers

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Kansas Rural Center,
4021 SW 10th St. #337
Topeka Ks. 66604
866-579-5469

E-Mail: mfund@kansasruralcenter.org
website: www.kansasruralcenter.org
Editor: Mary Fund

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KRC Staff

Mary Fund, Interim Executive
Director/Editor
mfund@kansasruralcenter.org

Cole Cottin, Program Coordinator
ccottin@kansasruralcenter.org

Natalie Fullerton, Program
Director
nfullerton@kansasruralcenter.org

Joanna Voigt, Communications
Coordinator
jvoigt@kansasruralcenter.org

Dan Phelps, Activity Coordinator
dphelps@kansasruralcenter.org

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Winfield

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Small Farmer Commentary

“Where Am I Going and Why Am I in This Handbasket?”

by Mary Fund

“Where am I going and why am I in this handbasket?” said the bumper sticker on the car in front of me. Indeed, that old saying could sum up the state of Kansas budget woes and perhaps the state of our democratic process. To Hell in a handbasket indeed.

Let me be blunt. The state revenue crisis is real. It will be felt by all Kansans. The savings account is empty and we must find new sources of revenue to maintain even the minimal level of services.

The state budget shortfall for this Fiscal Year (ending June 30, 2015) is \$344 million. (New numbers will come out before this is printed.) For 2016 that gap between revenue and expense is projected to grow to \$650 million. Revenues have dropped – and continue to drop– due to state income tax cuts adopted in 2012 and 2013, and downturn in other revenue areas such as oil and gas severance taxes and weak sales tax revenues. The State Constitution mandates a balanced budget.

Proposed solutions to the budget crisis so far include significant transfers from the state highway fund, cuts to K-12 education (50% of the state budget) as well as to our higher universities, and cuts to social service and other state programs. State government has been making cuts to agencies and programs since the national economic recession of 2008-2009. Lawmakers have been patching up the state budget by using limited sources of one-time availability for the past two years, and analysts say the savings account is empty.

So we are already at a bare bones or next to bare bones budget to address the needs of our citizens. Add to that the ideology driven policies of the current administration to reduce government and privatize services (including education), and you have a recipe for disaster.

The promised job and business growth to

make up for the income tax cuts has been slow to non-existent. Kansas lags behind surrounding states. Even the Governor has acknowledged that this growth will take time. But how much time do we have ?

To raise revenues, legislators are looking at freezing future planned income tax cuts, increasing “sin taxes” on alcohol and tobacco, maintaining sales taxes that were intended to drop by now, and at a mish-mash of property tax increases or changes to significant sales tax exemptions, and anything else they can get to stick to the wall.

In other words, we are looking at balancing the budget on the backs of wage earners (who are not eligible for the current income tax cuts for LLC’s and Sub-chapter S corporations), school children and young adults seeking higher education and training, the medically underserved, and the other most vulnerable of our citizens, and maybe even farmers and ranchers by increasing property taxes and removing some of their sales tax exemptions.

Nearly everyone I’ve talked to likes the idea of not paying taxes. Who would not want more cash in their pockets? But more than a few are now scratching their heads and saying, well, maybe we need to rethink this. When the cuts and repercussions are felt in local school districts, local hospitals, and by their kids or grandkids trying to come up with college or technical school tuition, or start families and careers, they think again.

Furthermore, the way in which public policy decisions are made is changing right under our noses. While it used to be reserved for cases of great need and was an exception to the rule, the “gut and go” tactic of taking a benign piece of legislation, removing its approved language and substituting a totally different piece of legislation in order to expedite its passage without debate or public input, is becoming

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Small Farmer Commentary

the norm. Anything passed under such conditions is at least subject to strong skepticism. Closer scrutiny and broader input are what makes for good policy.

As citizens, we must ask ourselves these questions. What are these changes costing us as a society? Who pays? And who benefits? The State Legislature will no doubt come up with some formula to balance the budget. But who pays the price and is it worth it? Are tax cuts to a few really worth sacrificing the quality of life for the many? Do the people of the state really want to further destroy the fabric of our rural communities dependent upon schools? and the health and education of future generations?

The ultimate result of the policies that cut taxes for a few, is that most of us will pay with fewer services, and more regressive taxes of sales and property taxes, and the mal-distribution of income and wealth in the state will widen.

If our governing bodies refuse to address this most basic problem, can we as citizens and citizen groups come together to begin dialogue of how to change direction? There are rumblings -across party and economic lines, and across interest groups statewide- of dissension, distrust, and distaste for what is passing for policy making and leadership.

At the very least, during the State Legislature's upcoming recess before the May veto session, talk to your Legislator. Ask Questions. Listen. And then ask them to provide real answers. And above all, keep talking to each other. We are the only ones who will dig ourselves out of this mess. □

Mary Fund can be reached at mfund@kansasruralcenter.org

*Recommended reading:
<http://www.kansasbudget.com/>
and <http://realprosperityks.com/>*

KRC Board Notes

Well Wishes to Bob Lominska

In mid- February, KRC long time board member Bob Lominska, Lawrence, and husband of KRC board member and 2014 president Joy Lominska, suffered a stroke. Bob is recuperating and we wish him and Joy patience and perseverance. Bob has been an enthusiastic and steadfast advocate for sustainable agriculture, the local food movement, and opportunities for new farmers. We wish him well on his road to recovery.

Briefs

KHI Releases Corporate Farm Law Health Impact Study

On March 27, the Kansas Health Institute released a health impact study that examined how some changes to the state's corporate farm law could affect the health of Kansans.

The Health Impact Assessment was in response to legislation introduced in the 2013 Kansas Legislative session to remove certain restrictions for agribusinesses with certain forms of ownership structures (corporation, trust, etc.) to operate in Kansas. While the bill did not pass, it prompted discussion as to the impact of the potential increases in livestock operations the changes could bring to Kansans and communities.

Key findings showed that an increase in the number of swine and dairy operations in Kansas may result in:

* Some increase in the number of jobs, however the potential health benefits of those jobs depend on whether the livestock operations provide liveable wages and offer health insurance coverage.

* No changes in county-level rates

of health insurance coverage, property values or school funding.

* Declining property values for properties located downwind and close to large livestock operations. Residents may be at increased risk of poor health due to decline in socio-economic status related to changes in their property values.

* Increased amounts of waste (manure and other) produced which could negatively impact air quality and increase risk of water pollution and soil contamination.

and * Increased volume of antibiotics used in animals. Continued or increased use of subtherapeutic antibiotics in livestock can contribute to bacterial resistance in humans.

The study analyzed six factors related to the expansion of the number and size of swine and dairy operations including employment, property values/taxes, population, water quantity, amount of waste produced and antibiotic use in animals. All of these factors can impact health.

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State Policy

Policy Challenges Ahead...

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On a wing and a prayer was the administration and legislative leadership's belief that eliminating the income tax - 30% of the state's revenue - would spur rapid and widespread economic development. So far that has not materialized as Kansas lags significantly in regional private employment and wage growth.

In this 'pay to play' political world - it is not surprising the wealthiest political donors would have their taxes cut the most and the least wealthy residents would be expected to cover the shortfalls with more sales taxes and increased property taxes. Farmers, who supported and benefitted from the income tax breaks, are now worried that they will be hit with increased property taxes.

The Governor's remedy now is to just freeze the lower income tax rates but not limit the tax breaks to the wealthiest limited liability corporations.

There should be a debate over the decisions to reduce the most progressive tax - the income tax - while increasing the reliance on the most regressive taxes - sales and property.

There is still opportunity to

rebalance revenues and demand fairness. But open and transparent debate is hard to come by in the current legislative climate of "gut and go" policy making.

School Funding. School funding is the greatest challenge to finding a balanced budget since it comprises 50% of the state's budget. The courts have spoken repeatedly that the existing school formula is underfunded by \$400 million. Instead of looking at how to properly fund education and invest in our future, leaders are looking at how to rewrite school funding to get by on much less, removing the equalizing elements of the formula and moving toward privatizing education.

The Governor's plan is to freeze this underfunding in place for two years as school districts struggle with serving poorer and more challenged students, and the state's rural communities reel from the threats of more cuts. The fate of 286 school districts is far from certain. Mandatory consolidation may not be politically possible but slow strangulation could force similar consequences. The objectives of the ruling conservative majority is to break teacher unions, reduce teacher salaries and siphon more public tax dollars off to private schools and corporate educational interests. The next two years will define what is meant by

'public education' in Kansas.

Medical Care. Several states with Republican governors have decided to expand Medicaid on their own conservative terms.

Legislative leadership in Kansas will not even permit a serious debate. While Kansas hospitals and medical providers have agreed to self-taxation to cover the 10% Medicaid match to draw down 90% federal funds, Kansas lawmakers have not been permitted a full debate as 150,000 'Medicaid eligible' poor Kansans remain locked out of medical coverage.

Rural hospitals are particularly vulnerable as Medicare rates are reduced, funding for uncompensated health care is reduced, and 340,000 folks are stranded in an unaffordable 'health careless' society.

Water and Resources. Water is the lifeblood of this state. The challenges are very real. The Ogallala aquifer has been drained 30% and will be 70% gone by 2050 without major brakes put in place.

The 24 federal reservoirs - built on primarily for flood protection and public water storage - are filling fast with soil from upland fields and stream bank erosion. 85% of water use in Kansas is irrigation. 35,000 groundwater permits were issued to over-appropriate water and mine the aquifer. A serious effort to develop a plan to reverse this over-appropriation by phasing down water rights and charging fees for irrigation water has yet to be discussed.

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Policy Challenges....

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While water is a multi-billion dollar economic driver for Kansas, the entire State Water Plan is barely funded at \$15 million annually from various fees. The revenue crisis dictates that the Governor's budget cannot find \$6 million from the State General Fund and \$2 million from lottery funds as mandated by statute. Thousands of interested Kansans have weighed in on a 50-year water vision plan that asks that conservation and sustainable development be prioritized.

Energy, Conservation & Efficiency. As compared to the other 49 states, Kansas is 39th in having the fewest energy efficiency and conservation programs provided by utilities and government. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - under its Clean Power Plan - affords Kansas the opportunity to improve our economy through energy conservation program investments and spending fewer dollars on unneeded Wyoming coal.

Our state's economy, our air quality, our water resources and the health of all Kansans will benefit from reducing carbon emissions. With our bountiful wind and sunshine, Kansas is in a unique position to diversify with homegrown energy sources and avoid unstable, future fossil fuel costs.

But Kansas has yet to fully compute our energy efficiency potential by insulating homes, installing state of art lighting, upgrading outdated air conditioners, replacing inefficient motors in many businesses, and funding co-generation natural gas power equipment that generates electricity on site and captures the waste heat for space and water heating. Leadership is now desperately needed to compute these energy savings and

mandate that the cheapest source of energy - energy efficiency upgrades - is an integral part of our energy future.

The policy challenges and opportunities are now before us. The revenue crisis should be the opportunity to re-stabilize a tax system that is balanced, fair and resilient to economic cycles. School funding is essential to all communities and the future of economic growth - so a new funding formula must prioritize equity and fairness for all students.

The medical care challenge must be addressed and the opportunity is there to cover thousands with Medicaid and assist the working poor with health care subsidies, and preserve quality hospitals for rural communities across the state. The debate over water has to move beyond mere debate to an action plan that properly prices water use, prioritizes a conservation plan and fully values the entire ecosystem.

Energy conservation opportunities have increased in the 21st century with greatly improved lighting, more efficient appliances, sophisticated energy audits and financing options for energy conservation improvements and solar energy installations.

Future challenges do exist for our tax, school, health, water and energy systems. But we add to them by not addressing them head on. There are very real opportunities to improve these systems and re-establish a quality of life for all Kansans.

Kansans need to take advantage of the upcoming legislative recess (April 3 through the 29th) to talk to legislators. Ask questions. Prompt debate, and get answers. We can't wait any longer. □

Lecture from Prof. Don Stull Set for April 16

In honor of his hard work and dedication over a long career, the University of Kansas' Environmental Law Society is proud to host a lecture by Prof. Don Stull on April 16 7:30 p.m. at the ECM Building in Lawrence.

Prof. Stull is an applied anthropologist at KU and the author of **Slaughterhouse Blues: The Meat and Poultry Industry in North America**, first published in 2004. A second edition published in 2012 includes updated information on the industry and consumer trends and health and community impacts.

Stull, who will retire this spring, has worked for over 40 years on the critical agricultural issues surrounding the livestock and meat packing industry. As researcher, analyst, and educator, Prof. Stull has focused on the biggest challenge facing family farmers and ranchers: the corporate monopolization of the meat packing industry and its impact on family farmers, wage labor, and communities.

The KU Environmental Law Society is joined by the Kansas Rural Center and the Kansas Farmers Union, in hosting a lecture by Prof. Stull at the KU Ecumenical Building (ECM at corner of 12th and Jayhawk Blvd) Thursday, April 16th at 7:30 P.M. □

Local Food and Farming News

Take Action~ Be A 'Feeding Kansas' Advocate!

by Natalie Fullerton

The Kansas Rural Center (KRC) is calling for Feeding Kansas Advocates to join us on a journey toward ensuring that our own farmers and communities are a part of the solution to feeding Kansas. To advance this effort, grassroots voices and action is more critical than ever.

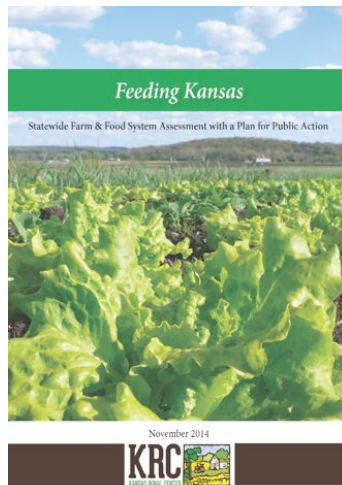
This work is part of KRC's three year 'Community Food Solutions' for a Healthier Kansas' initiative which aims to advance seven key public policy solutions to better incorporate Kansas farms into the supply chain thereby potentially improving Kansas's economy, community, environment, and health status.

In the first year, hundreds of partners across the state actively working on farm-to-fork solutions helped KRC develop **Feeding Kansas: Statewide Farm & Food System Assessment with a Plan for Public Action**. The plan identifies three specific goals and seven policy recommendations for advancing of the state's farm and food system to more effectively feed and nourish Kansans.

Currently in its second year, KRC will spend 2015 and 2016 working with a growing network of grassroots citizens and partners to advocate for the public policy priorities set forth in the report.

For those who want to support and advocate for KRC's Feeding Kansas report recommendations but are not sure what to do, KRC is providing action alerts, a menu of options throughout the year that make it easy for anyone to take action and support this effort.

KRC will be sending these action alerts in Feeding Kansas News and Action, an email that will be sent when new action alerts are posted and will also be available on the KRC website. To receive these emails, sign up at kansasruralcenter.org/cfs.



An action alert currently available includes selecting at least three Action Goals, from a list of recommended goals provided by KRC, which would ideally be completed by the end of next year's legislative session, May 2016. There are nine different Action Goals that one can choose from which empower grassroots citizens to have a voice in advancing the recommendations of Feeding Kansas which help farmers, policy makers, and communities to chart a path forward that will yield the most successes, most quickly, in providing Kansans with an abundance of healthful food.

Throughout the year, KRC will work with those who've selected Action Goals providing handy advocacy tools that help accomplish these goals. Many tools are already available on KRC's website in the "Advocacy Toolbox"

section of www.kansasruralcenter.org/cfs.

Another option is to be a Feeding Kansas Volunteer! Suggest your community as a 2015 Feeding Kansas summit location and be a part of the leadership team that helps plan the meeting. Help KRC staff find a great location, food, and local experts.

Last spring and summer, KRC visited Greensburg, Iola, Concordia, and Colby where Kansans from all walks of life examined the barriers and opportunities in our farm and food system. The result was the Feeding Kansas report.

This year KRC is again looking for four host communities. This time we will bring support and training that will help your community strengthen its farm and food system such as advocacy with policy makers, media engagement, and community food organizing. Be a Feeding Kansas Advocate by participating and supporting any of these action opportunities and more.

To learn more about the Feeding Kansas report, how to get involved, the opportunities above and more visit Kansasruralcenter.org/cfs. KRC welcomes and encourages ideas and suggested strategies for effectively advancing any of the policy priorities expressed in Feeding Kansas.

To provide feedback or participate in this initiative, contact Natalie Fullerton at nfullerton@kansasruralcenter.org or (866) 579-5469. □

Local Food and Farming News

Kansas Local Food Advocates Gather at the Statehouse

by Natalie Fullerton



Preparing for the local foods' lunch with Kansas legislators. Shown are Paul Johnson, KRC Policy Analyst and Natalie Fullerton, KRC Project Director; and caterers Tiffany Boaldin and Eldon Bryant, Black Betty Catering.

The Kansas Rural Center along with the American Heart Association (AHA), farmers and healthy food advocates from across the state joined forces March 4 in the Capitol to talk to lawmakers about how Kansas farmers could help be the solution to the obesity epidemic and other health issues in the state by growing more fruits and vegetables.

KRC and AHA served legislators a farm to fork box lunch with nearly all of the ingredients sourced within the Topeka and northeast Kansas area. Even though Kansas still hasn't quite seen the beginning of the growing season, the lunch helped demonstrate that even in early March, in Kansas, there is great potential for farmers to grow and market food.

"Kansas has the unique ability to produce a variety of fruits, vegetables, lean meats, whole grains and low-fat dairy items so we should, in theory, have access to the freshest healthiest foods available, but unfortunately we don't," said Missty Lechner, American Heart Association Advocacy Project

Director. "In fact, over 90% of the food Kansans buy comes from out of the state."

The American Heart Association is working with the Kansas Rural Center on their 'Community Food Solutions for a Healthier Kansas' initiative to help bridge the gap between farmers and community health.

"If we want to see real improvements in health and also keep more money locally, we have to think about things differently. We have to make healthy Kansas-grown food an easy choice for all Kansans," said Natalie Fullerton, Project Director for the Kansas Rural Center.

Last year, hundreds of partners across the state actively working on farm-to-fork solutions helped KRC develop Feeding Kansas: Statewide Farm & Food System Assessment with a Plan for Public Action. The report, one of the first outcomes of the three year Initiative, identifies three specific goals and seven policy priorities for advancing of the state's farm and food

system to more effectively feed and nourish Kansans.

The Legislative Luncheon kicked off the Feeding Kansas Advocacy Campaign, a next step in this initiative that aims to grow a network that supports the recommendations of the Feeding Kansas report and advocates for changes.

"Community Food Solutions for a Healthier Kansas," is a three-year initiative aimed at identifying and advocating for public policy solutions that make healthful foods the routine, easy choice for all Kansans. This initiative is part of a statewide partnership among the Kansas Rural Center, the American Heart Association, KC Healthy Kids, Kansas Action for Children, Healthy Kansas Hospitals Initiative and grassroots advocates from all over Kansas funded by the Kansas Health Foundation.

If you would like more information on how you can get involved in the "Community Food Solutions" Initiative visit www.kansasruralcenter.org/cfs and sign up to become a Feeding Kansas Advocate. For more information contact Natalie Fullerton at nfullerton@kansasruralcenter.org.

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New KRC Contact Information

(as of October 1, 2014):

Telephone: 866-579-5469

Mailing Address:

Kansas Rural Center
4021 SW 10th Street #337

Topeka, Ks. 66604

info@kansasruralcenter.org

Women in Farming News



Above left, women listened to presentations on available resources from County Conservation Districts, the Farm Service Agency and Farm to School programs, plus food safety. Women gathered at the farm tour for discussion with other women farmers at the March 14 workshop.

Photos by J. Voigt.

Women's Workshops...

Continued from page 1

Women identified a lack of educational opportunities for women farmers on topics including federal crop insurance programs, financial and legal issues involving farms and farm businesses, and production and management skills.

Additionally, research shows that women prefer a more participatory approach to learning than a classroom-style format, and that women tend to participate more fully in a women-only setting.

Each workshop in the series has a slightly different focus, but all four workshops are designed to provide women farmers with the information and tools needed to manage or reduce production and handling risks whether specialty crop, organic, or crop and livestock farms; and to understand business, financial, and legal issues.

An important part of each workshop is a farm tour, highlighting a variety of

farming methods and alternative enterprises, offering an opportunity for participants to actively engage in the discussions.

The May 9th workshop in Linn, Kansas at the America Legion will include an afternoon farm tour of Lucinda Stuenkel's farm near Palmer, Kansas. The morning portion of the workshop will focus on business, financial, and legal risk management, featuring Duane Hund, Kansas State University, on basic financial and business planning, and Mykel Taylor, Kansas State University, on land price trends, leasing and tenant issues, and Forrest Buhler, Kansas Ag Mediation Services on basic estate planning. The farm tour at Lucinda Stuenkel's will focus on conservation practices, including cover crops and no-till, and cattle management techniques for women, and include information on con-servation program resources. (See page 11 for profile of Stuenkel's farm.)

The final workshop will take place on July 11, 2015, in Emporia, Kansas,

and will focus on soil health including cover crops and no-till; integrated crop and livestock farming; organic farming practices, and new enterprise development such as specialty crops and high tunnels; small livestock and poultry marketing. The morning portion of the workshop will take place at Flint Hills Technical College in Emporia, and an afternoon farm tour will be held at Gail Fuller's farm outside of Emporia.

The workshops are supported by the USDA Risk Management Agency. More details and registrations for the remaining workshops can be found at http://kansasruralcenter.org/category/risk_management/ as they become available.

For more information on the initiative contact Joanna Voigt at (866) 579-5469, or jvoigt@kansasruralcenter.org. □

Former KRC Board President Receives KOP's 'John Vogelsberg Sustainable Ag Award'



Harry Bennett (above right) received the John Vogelsberg Sustainable Agriculture Award from Ed Reznicek, Kansas Organic Producers (KOP) General Manager. Photo by Martin Eddy.

The Kansas Organic Producers (KOP) established the John Vogelsberg Sustainable Agriculture Award to honor those who exemplify John's commitment to the natural world around him and his dedication to preserving farming opportunities and vital communities. John was a life-long organic farmer from Marshall County and a founding member of Kansas Organic Producers in 1976.

In addition to KOP, John was also committed and involved with social and cooperative action to secure farming and environmental sustainability and social justice. He was a long-time member of Kansas Farmers Union and the National Farmers Organization- both with heavy emphasis on cooperative action.

As organic and sustainable farming organizations emerged in the 1970's and 80's, John was a leading farmer working with other farmers and collaborating with USDA and Land Grant research and extension teams, teaching and showing them the practices and benefits of diversified, sustainable farming systems. His contributions to sustainable agriculture, his hands-on knowledge and practice of farming, received national recognition, and live on today on many organic farms around the country.

At the annual KOP meeting March 21, KOP presented the award to Harry Bennett, KOP's long time, soon to retire marketer. Harry's involvement with KOP goes back to its early days. Harry joined KOP around 1980, and almost immediately he was elected to serve on the board, and later served as board president. During those years, Harry and wife Margie developed an organic farm near Marion, Kansas. He has served as a grain marketer for KOP for several years, even after he and Margie moved to Madison, Wisconsin in 2011, to be nearer their daughters and grand-children.

Harry was also a long-time board member and board president for the Kansas Rural Center. "For the entire time I've known Harry, he has been a workhorse for social justice and a tireless worker for the environment - patient, persistent, committed and in for the long haul," stated Ed Reznicek, KOP General Manager. "It is an honor to present him with this award."

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KHI Corporate Farm Law Study...

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To mitigate the potential negative health effects of the proposed changes to the law, the assessment includes recommendations for policymakers, relevant agencies and livestock operations to consider:

- * Increase the minimum separation distance between habitable structures and dairy farms (1000 animal units or more) and swine farms (3,725 animal units or more) to three miles.

- * Compensate neighboring property owners who may experience negative effects associated with nearby livestock operations.

- * Conduct a statewide study of existing large-scale livestock operations' nutrient utilization plans for manure application regulation.

- * Develop and implement a Kansas - specific siting tool to evaluate optimal siting conditions.

- * Restrict sub-therapeutic antibiotic use in animals.

The Executive Summary and full report are available at the Kansas Health Institute's website at <http://www.khi.org/policy/article/CorporateAgHIA>.

The study was supported by the Health Impact Project, a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Pew Charitable Trusts, through the Kansas Health Foundation. KHI states that the views expressed in the report do not necessarily reflect the views of the project's advisory panel or the funders. The advisory panel included Ks. Farm Bureau, Ks. Livestock Association, Ks. Pork Producers Council, Ks. Farmers Union, and Ks. Rural Center. □

New Crop Insurance Option Aims to Help Diversity and Level the Playing Field

by Dan Phelps

In the US, 85% of 'principle crop' acreage is insured, while only 32% of vegetable acreage is insured. Crop insurance has historically been geared towards commodity farms and has favored monocultures (vegetable monocultures included). Most specialty crop farmers, especially those with diversity, have not had access to crop insurance, or at least any policies worth considering. That is, until recently.

USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) is offering a new type of crop insurance for diversified farms. Whole Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) is a single policy that covers the entire farm, from specialty crops to mixed grains, and includes livestock, nursery, and greenhouse plants. The more diverse the farm is, the better the policy will be. There are additional benefits for certified organic farms and farms selling to local and regional markets, as WFRP acknowledges the price premiums at these markets.

WFRP rewards diversification, recognizing that diversification is itself a risk management technique. If a farmer chooses a coverage level of 50-75% then the premium subsidy is up to 80%, with a requirement of at least three crops and a premium discount for further diversification. The 'premium subsidy' is the amount the federal government pays, with the remaining 'producer premium' paid for by the farmer. This insurance policy kicks in if the total farm revenue drops well below historical levels, which are determined by five years of records.

Leiann Nelson, of RMA, offers a nice example of how these numbers work out: A highly diversified farm in Cumberland County, New Jersey, is producing more than seven crops for a total revenue of \$50,000. If they choose 75% WFRP coverage, then the liability is \$37,500 (75% of \$50,000). Their total premium is \$2,325 (a low 6% due to high diversity), with a \$1,860 premium subsidy (80%) and a producer premium of \$465 (20%).

This policy is more appealing than WFRP's predecessors, AGR and AGR Lite. The maximum premium subsidy, which was 59% with these options, is 80% for WFRP. The payout limit was \$6.5 million, it is now \$8.5 million with WFRP. The coverage now includes livestock, nursery, and greenhouse plants (capped at 35% of the total revenue). WFRP promotes expansion by covering projected increased revenue.

There is now replant coverage, covering the cost of replanting after an early season crop failure. WFRP includes coverage for 'market readiness' (washing, trimming, packaging), benefitting farms that sell directly to the public. Farmers can continue to insure individual crops alongside their WFRP policy. AGR and AGR Lite were only available in 36 states, with many Mid-West states excluded. WFRP is available in 45 states, including all of the Midwest.

One major shortcoming of WFRP is that it requires five years of tax records, a requirement that excludes beginning farmers with less than five years as farm owners. Nonetheless,

this policy is a vast improvement on previous attempts to bring insurance to 'alternative farmers', including local and regional farms, specialty crops farms, certified organic farms, and/or diversified farms. This new policy helps level the playing field (at least in regards to crop insurance) and promotes and rewards more sustainable growing practices. As with any new program, glitches and problems will arise as people use it, but hopefully these can be addressed with more experience.

Resources:

NSAC- Grassroots Guide to WFRP: <http://sustainableagriculture.net/publications/grassrootsguide/credit-crop-insurance/whole-farm-revenue-protection-for-diversified-farms/>

Webinar hosted by NCAT, NSAC, RAFI-USA:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g6ZF1ylClsw>

Another Crop Insurance

Option: Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

Specialty crop farmers have another crop insurance option, available through FSA. Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) offers fruit, vegetable and other specialty crops coverage for losses when natural disasters hits. The 2014 Farm Bill implemented improvements to NAP, increasing the coverage levels for all farms, providing a price premium for organic and direct market farmers, and providing incentives to beginning,

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socially disadvantaged, and limited resource farmers to enroll.

“These new protections will help ensure that farm families growing crops for food, fiber or livestock consumption will be better able to withstand losses due to natural disasters,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “For years, commodity crop farmers have had the ability to purchase insurance to keep their crops protected, and it only makes sense that fruit and vegetable, and other specialty crop growers, should be able to purchase similar levels of protection. Ensuring these farmers can adequately protect themselves from factors beyond their control is also critical for consumers who enjoy these products and for communities whose economies depend on them.”

When compared to WFRP, this coverage may be more appropriate for specialty crop operations with less diversity or smaller acreage. While WFRP limits out at \$8.5 million, NAP limits out at \$125,000. While NAP only covers up to 65% APH (actual production history), WFRP offers up to 85% production coverage when three or more crops are grown.

Additional NAP Resources:

FSA NAP Fact Sheet:

http://fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/nap_2015_subsqnt_yrs.pdf

USDA News Release:

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdamediafb?contentid=2014/12/0269.xml&printable=true&contentidonly=true>

NSAC Blog:

<http://sustainableagriculture.net/blog/nap-farm-bill-changes/>

Water & Energy Progress Profile- Lucinda Stuenkel: Managing for Conservation, Efficiency and Family

by Rachel Myslivy

Editor's Note: While the organization Climate and Energy Project focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency and renewable policies and practices, one of their projects, Water and Energy Progress, brings together water, energy and agriculture organizations to identify innovative practices, then nominates exemplary Kansas farmers, and showcases these efforts. The intent is that the awards and reports will help other farmers take steps to implement water and energy conservation on their farms.

The 2015 award winners include: John Bradley, Lawrence; Mark Eitel, Dighton; Michael Herrmann, Kinsley; Jane Koger, Chase County; Living Acres Network, Gove County; McCarty Dairy, Rexford; Karen and John Pendleton, Lawrence; Shannon Creek Cattle & Quarter Horses, Olsburg; Bill Sproul, Sedan; Lucinda Stuenkel, Palmer; and Darin & Nancy Williams, Waverly.

The following is excerpted (and reprinted with permission) from Lucinda Stuenkel's profile on the Water & Energy Progress website www.waterandenergyprogress.org. Lucinda Stuenkel, KRC board member, will host the upcoming farm tour at KRC's May 9 Women in Farming workshop.
MF

Lucinda Stuenkel's, labor-saving innovations, including building a calving barn, relocating winter feeding sites, and installing a video surveillance system, have saved time and energy and positively impacted water quality. The grass-fed beef operation benefits from the integration of no-till with cover crops, which enables the family to graze approximately 60-65 cow/calf pairs year-round on the Stuenkel farmstead near Palmer, KS.

Prioritizing family time, conservation, and efficiency, the Stuenkel farm saves water, improves water quality, saves energy, and leaves plenty of time to enjoy both the family and the farm.

Water. Integrating no-till farming with cover crops and managed grazing saves water and increases resilience during tough times. Conservation practices help water to both stay on the property and be cleaner when it leaves than when it arrives. Utilizing

the Kansas Rural Center's Clean Water Farms whole farm planning notebook, Lucinda and her late husband Daryl identified water goals for 1, 2, 5, 15, and 20 years. She continues to follow the plans, using this original environmental assessment as a guide for future goals.

The Stuenkel's installed sediment basins between cropland and pastures which slow the water down, holding it for 42-72 hours before it filters through the bank and down into the pond. This reduces erosion between crop fields and the ponds. It also increases wildlife and riparian areas. In another location, they built a dike along the edge of a sacrifice lot (a.k.a. dry lot) so water has to go around north or south through grass before it enters the river. Rock check dams and rock channels hold back the soil, slowing water down and making sure it is cleaner before it enters the creek.

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Stuenkel Profile:

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The biggest water conservation measure on the Stuenkel farm is planting cover crops in the fall. When the wheat is harvested, they do not bale the straw, instead leaving it as residue that retains moisture to nourish the next crop.

The cover crops are planted into this residue then grazed during the winter. The soil gains the microbiology from the cattle manure and trampling of plants into the ground, providing compost. This practice also means that the soil is covered all winter which helps retain moisture coming into the spring and reduces the drying effect of winter Kansas winds, the third windiest state in the United States.

“One of the biggest fallacies is that cover crops remove moisture. We found the opposite. Covers actually sequester water and hold it in the soil. Covers mean that a root is holding the soil for 12 months a year or as much as possible,” Lucinda Explains. “The roots provide a long corridor down to the groundwater and the plant roots from the next grain crop follow that corridor down to the deeper water supply.”

Keeping the soil covered is a big part of the Stuenkel’s management plan, and it pays off. In 2013, in the second year of drought, farmers on the Stuenkel farm no-till planted corn into two-foot high wheat stubble. While the corn on neighboring farms burned up, theirs yielded 137 bushels per acre.

Water availability. The Stuenkels are working to increase the number of livestock waterers and also converting



Lucinda Stuenkel (center) showed cover crops in corn stubble on a KRC women and conservation tour in November 2013. Photo M. Fund.

existing water sources to frost-free waterers. The goal is for each paddock to have a water source. The cows would then need to go just 500 feet to the nearest water source instead of all the way to the barn. Frost-free waterers will expand the ability to graze cattle on cover crops in the fields during winter. Some of the ponds are fenced to maintain better water quality.

Continuous pasturing year round keeps the cattle from being confined to lots for long periods of time, which also reduces waste and nutrient run off into creeks. With the assistance of a Tuttle Creek WRAPS grant, Stuenkel had a winter feeding site moved to the top of the hill to be farther from the creek. This provides a grass buffer between the dry lots and the creek, filtering and reducing the impact of nutrient runoff.

“Putting water in pastures helps to minimize manure in dry lots. Now, we only haul manure once a year instead of every couple of weeks. It saves fuel and money. We stockpile grass, to save it for grazing in the winter. We try to coordinate the stockpiled grass so they are adjacent to milo stocks and

cover crops,” Lucinda stated.

Additionally, Stuenkel has a summer crew of high school students who are cutting cedars in the pastures to improve water availability. Cedars take about 30 gallons of water each. Eliminating cedars makes more water available to run into ponds. Lucinda jokes, “cedars are almost as greedy as corn.” While they are cutting cedars, they are also expanding and maintaining trees in other areas – as hedge rows for wind breaks.

Lucinda explains, “Crop land between two hedge rows seems to produce more in terms of crops. In the summer, cattle congregate under hedge trees during the heat of the day. They do better both in raising healthier calves and in terms of grooming and body condition if they have benefit of some shade in the summer. Also, it is much better if they can be protected from the cold winds in the wintertime.”

Energy. Lucinda Stuenkel’s approach to on-farm energy use includes fuel reductions, more efficient use of human energy, and

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Women in Agriculture



The maternity barn saves a lot of time and human energy. "Neighbors thought I was crazy," Stuenkel remembers. But now call to borrow it." Photo by M. Fund

Stuenkel Profile

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integration of renewable energy. While continuous pasturing means cleaner water, it also impacts on-farm energy. Lucinda says, "With rotational grazing and a pasture resting period to regrow, you can have two or three times the amount of grass you would typically have. In that way, we are saving water and energy, too, because we are basically harvesting the sun with animals. The sun causes photosynthesis, causes grass to grow, then we harvest it with cattle, rather than harvesting with machinery."

Rotational grazing and continuous pasturing means there are fewer bales to bale, resulting in less fuel and machinery in terms of transporting feed to cattle. "Basically cows have four legs and they get the food."

Improvements to the calving system save fuel, time, and energy, and result in healthier cows. Lucinda installed a video surveillance system in the calving lot. With this system, farmers can check on the cows from their houses in town, instead of driving almost ten

miles to see if the cow is calving.

"They can pull up the video surveillance on their computer or cell phone," Lucinda explains. "This means we have less frequent trips to check on the cows, plus more sleep! This gives flexibility and freedom, but it saves fuel, too."

A maternity barn was built to help with the calving process. The maternity barn has four box stalls, two of which have head gates and gates that swing up against the cow to calm her when she is in the head gate. If a cow has difficulty birthing, the cow puts herself into the headgate so the human assistants can pull the calf. The partial slide away gate is nice when a calf wants to nurse or the cow needs to be milked. "It is so much safer than the alternative. You don't have to keep cow off of you. You don't have to work out in the cold. You aren't at danger of being charged by the cow."

Lucinda Stuenkel is truly a model of success, determination, and innovation - in collaboration with others. Her approach to conservation and efficiency was shaped by a tragedy. In

2010, both her husband and brother-in-law were killed in an accident the week before Thanksgiving.

Knowing that if she and her sister-in-law let go of the farm, the kids would have a much harder time getting back into farming as adults, they made quick and sweeping changes to ensure that they could stay on the farm. From the maternity barn to low-stress stockmanship to the video surveillance system to no-till with cover crops, Lucinda has prioritized efficiency, conservation, and family.

Holding to the goals established before the accident, Lucinda maintains a steady pace of improvements both planned and spontaneous, responding to the new reality of farming with less muscle. Working in collaboration with others to turn ideas into reality, Lucinda is quick to share the credit.

"The best management decision I ever made was selling some heifer calves to two of my new farmers. They both just turned 30 (and each have a wife and three kids). They are highly motivated to be successful, are intelligent, have experience from growing up on small farms with cattle, and are young and strong enough to do what needs to be done. I do not do this solo. I could not begin to do it without these farm partners." □

Rachel Myslivy is the Coordinator for the Water & Energy Progress Project. To see the profiles of other award winners and tour videos, go to www.waterandenergyprogress.org

State's Local Food and Farm Task Force Exploring Options

The Local Food and Farm Task Force, established by the passage of SB 286 in 2014, hit the ground running last fall by launching meetings to gather information and input from producers, specialists, and agency staff. The task force is responsible for preparing a local food and farm plan for Kansas containing policy and funding recommendations to increase locally grown food production and availability statewide. The plan and recommendations are due to the Legislature in January 2016.

Last December, KRC's Cole Cottin presented the findings of KRC's just released **Feeding Kansas** report to the task force. "Kansas's Local Food and Farm Task Force has been very receptive to the concepts and recommendations laid out in Feeding Kansas," reports Cole Cottin, Advocacy Coordinator for KRC and lead writer-analyst of the report. "They are clearly interested in continuing to receive more public input on what is needed to accomplish the task ahead."

In January the task force covered several issues, including access to farm loan and crop insurance programs, and potential for development of vegetable crops in Kansas. Todd Barrows, agriculture program specialist with the Farm Service Agency, spoke about the "NAP" program, or noninsured crop assistance. It provides risk management and assistance to specialty crop producers, also with the goal of growing a database nationwide to understand whether it's feasible to move specialty crops to risk management assistance (RMA). NAP is focused on production losses due to natural events.

Lee Hartford, also of FSA, provided

information about the agency's loan program. Several types of loans are provided, including farm purchase guaranteed, operating, youth, micro, and emergency loans. Both loans and crop insurance are available to specialty crop farmers, providing important support and addressing important concerns of the task force.

Dr. Chuck Marr, retired professor of horticulture for K-State Research and Extension, provided a report about the potential for vegetable crops in Kansas. Marr emphasized that quality is essential for vegetables, more than in any segment of agriculture, and that it's determined by the consumer's perception. Vegetables are highly perishable, as illustrated by the old adage that "in the vegetable business you either sell it, or you smell it." This means that unlike commodity crops, there are not surplus stocks.

Dr. Marr's advice to the Task Force was to not count vegetable crops in terms of acres under cultivation, as other agricultural crops are inventoried. Instead, he suggested, utilize dollars and jobs created as other economic development efforts do. He also recommended partnering with experts in other states in our region, to share knowledge and resources. With so many crops and specialized knowledge, shared information provides for a broader knowledge and resource base for producers.

Marr said, "fruits and vegetables have more upside potential now than any other sector in agriculture, due to consumer needs and health concerns, plus their potential for driving community development." He was very positive about the need for providing additional support through

K-State Research & Extension agents, a recommendation made clear in KRC **Feeding Kansas** report.

In February the agenda included a presentation about local food infrastructure and distribution opportunities and challenges, provided by representatives of Good Natured Family Farms of Southeast Kansas. Diana Endicott, founder and manager of Good Natured Family Farms, markets product from 150 farms in Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska and had \$4.5 million in revenues last year.

Endicott emphasized the value to rural communities in providing marketing outlets for food products from small farms. She said obstacles included a need for supply especially berries of all types, processing equipment such as slicers to help provide user-ready product to institutions, farmer communication, increasing regulations like GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) certification, difficulty in gaining funding through state programs, and competitive legal challenges from larger entities such as the established dairy industry.

Opportunities include knowing the economics of program reimbursements to find the lucrative markets for farm goods into schools and institutions, such as Head Start programs; farms can make money working with these programs. She said farmers coming together to create coops similar to the traditional elevators in small towns, but with food aggregation facilities including processing equipment, loading docks and cold storage, could fill needed gaps.

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A few of Endicott's recommendations to the task force include looking at programs to help beginning farmers, such as programs through community colleges, looking at and encouraging innovations already occurring on farms, establishing and encouraging institutional purchasing contracts that set aside a certain percentage for local farm foods, reducing or eliminating tax on fresh farm foods and supporting development of food chain infrastructure needs.

Task force members include Sen. Tom Hawk of Manhattan, Rep. Adam Lusker, Frontenac, and Sen. Dan Kerschen, Garden Plain; Cary Rivard, KSU Research and Extension; David Coltrain, Seward County Community College; farmer and Chairman Ron Brown, farmer Loren Swenson, and Ks. Department of Agriculture representatives Annarose White and Julie Roller.

All task force meetings are open to the public and include time at the end for audience feedback. For location details or other questions contact Kerry Wefald at (785) 564-6758 or Kerry.Wefald@kda.ks.gov

KRC will continue to report on task force meetings. To view KRC's full reports on this year's meetings visit the "News & Events" section of www.kansasruralcenter.org/cfs. □

USDA Proposes to Continue Farm Subsidy Abuse

On March 25, USDA issued the long awaited proposed rule to reform farm subsidy payments. Sadly, the proposed changes to the "actively engaged in farming" rules amount to very little in the way of real reform, missing the best chance yet for President Obama to make good on his number one agricultural policy platform proposal.

The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition will be encouraging family farm advocates across the country to make their voices heard during the 60 day public comment period: continuing to allow for payment limit abuse to foster mega farms is unacceptably bad public policy.

Bipartisan majorities in the House and Senate have approved closing the loopholes in the "actively engaged" rules and tightening payment limitations. Early in 2014, however, in the waning minutes of behind closed doors negotiations of Agriculture Committee leaders, this farm bill reform was overturned, payment limits increased, and changes to the actively engaged in farming rules punted to USDA.

In fielding that punt, USDA has decided to surrender its authority to effectively implement the law of the land limiting commodity payments to those actively engaged in farming and, instead, to only do the minimum the farm bill conference report asked of them. By surrendering its authority, the Department has reversed the President's campaign pledge.

At the very top of his farm and rural platform (Obama-Biden: Real Leadership For Rural America), Candidate Obama wrote: "The lack of effective payment limitations has resulted in federal farm programs financing farm consolidation and the elimination of many mid-size family farms...Barack Obama and Joe Biden will close the loopholes that allow mega farms to get around the limits by subdividing their operations into multiple paper corporations. They will take immediate action to close the loophole by proposing regulations to limit payments to active farmers who work the land...Every President since Ronald Reagan has had the authority to close this loophole without additional action by Congress, but has failed to act."

This continuing failure to act will be good news to a handful of attorneys and accountants who, if the rule is finalized in its current form, will be busy making money by helping farm partnerships affected by the high payment limit reorganize as family entities so they can continue to benefit without limit.

To its credit, the proposed rule does take a stab at tightening the farm management definition, requiring recordkeeping, and adding a quantifiable test. The absence of any real management test is a key to mega farms doing an end run around payment limits. This step in the right direction, however, is negated by the failure to apply the new test to anyone but a small slice of all farms.

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Farm Subsidies....

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Large farms with unrelated partners would be able, under the proposed rule, to get up to \$1 million a year in subsidy payments. If that is not enough, or if they cannot qualify under the new tightened management definition, they would be free to reorganize their businesses to continue to reap the same multiple payments they receive now. Decades of waste and abuse will continue unabated. Despite valiant attempts at key aspects of reform, the bottom line on the proposed rule is that it is fatally flawed and will result in very little change to the status quo.

NSAC states it will continue to encourage that reform be comprehensive and across the board, applying to all farms, as Congress intended when it put the actively engaged in farming rule into law in 1987. The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition has posted additional information and analysis of the proposed rule on its blog:

<http://sustainableagriculture.net/blog/actively-engaged-proposed-rule/>.

For more information, go to:
<http://sustainableagriculture.net> □
(From NSAC News Release March 25, 2015)

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For more information, contact Dale Kirkham at 620-344-0202

Bill to Thwart GMO Labeling Back

Rep. Mike Pompeo (R-KS) has reintroduced his bill that would block federal and state efforts to require the labeling of foods containing genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

Vermont, Maine, and Connecticut have passed laws requiring GMO labeling, and many more states are currently considering similar legislation. "Right to Know" GMO labeling ballot initiatives were narrowly defeated in Oregon and Colorado in the last election. As part of their labeling requirements, some states like Connecticut have also included provisions that make it illegal for food companies to label products containing GMOs as "natural."

The 2015 Pompeo bill - dubbed the "Deny Americans' Right to Know" or DARK Act by opponents, and "Safe and Accurate Food Labeling" by supporters - continues the 2014 bill's efforts to preempt state law requiring the labeling of GE food and regulating "natural" claims.

It would also prevent FDA from creating a national GMO labeling scheme - as proposed in the bill introduced by Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) in the Senate and by Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) in the House. Instead it continues to rely on voluntary labeling schemes.

The bill would also establish a new,

voluntary non-GMO labeling program at USDA.

The House Energy and Commerce Committee (which oversees the FDA) has primary jurisdiction over the bill, but with the new addition of the proposed voluntary USDA label, the House Agriculture Committee has now been given joint jurisdiction. It has thus been referred to both committees for review. No further action has been scheduled at this time. Currently, there is no Senate companion bill. □ (From National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition at <http://sustainableagriculture.net/blog/dark-act-is-back/>)

KRC Welcomes New Board Members and Elects 2015 Officers

The Kansas Rural Center held its bi-annual board meeting on March 7 in Salina, Ks. KRC elected officers for 2015, thanked out going board members, and welcomed two new members to the board.

2015 officers are: Stu Shafer, Oskaloosa as President; Wayne White, Oskaloosa, Vice-President; Jennifer Kongs, Lawrence, Secretary; Laura Fortmeyer, Fairview, Treasurer; and at large members: Marjorie Van Buren, Topeka, and Lucinda Stuenkel, Palmer.

Out going board members include Ben Champion who resigned in 2014 due to moving out of state, and Maria Stewart and Rick Boller, Lebanon. Re-elected to another term on the board were Troy Schroeder, of Albert and Gary Weisenberger of Lebanon.

KRC is pleased to welcome two new members to our Board: Lyle Frees,

Ellsworth, and Caryl Hale, Norton.

Lyle was born on a farm near Holyrood, Kansas, along the Ellsworth- Barton County line. He attended Barton County Community College and Fort Hays State University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in agronomy. Lyle started working for the USDA Soil Conservation Service in January 1978 where he served as District Conservationist in Morton, Harper, and Reno counties.

In January 1995, Lyle became the Coordinator for the Cheney Lake Watershed Project. In 2001, he transferred to the USDA NRCS state office as the State Agronomist and Water Quality Specialist. Lyle retired from NRCS in July 2013. Lyle worked with KRC in our NC SARE grant in 2010-2012 to conduct organic farming training for NRCS staff, and has been an early and enthusiastic promoter of cover crops and soil health.

Caryl Hale is a Kansas native raised in the Flint Hills. She later moved to Lawrence and lived there for 12 years. While in Lawrence, Caryl was a active in a number of food, farm and gardening related groups and activities. She and her husband Aaron recently moved back to Aaron's home town of Norton, Kansas, in order to connect their children with the family legacy of farming and to raise their kids in a small town with involvement from many extended family members.

Caryl has helped manage Jim Rowh's organic farm near Norton, and served as the Norton Farmers Market manager. She serves on the Norton County Farm Bureau board, the Norton Arts Council board, is a member of both the Hays food co-op and the High Plains Food Co-op, and is currently establishing herself as a freelance writer. □



*A donation of \$60 /year provides KRC "Friend" benefits: KRC e-mail alerts, one-year of Rural Papers Newsletter, and Policy Watch E-Updates. (\$24 for Seniors or Students.)

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Thank you for your support!
 If you have any questions about
 your contribution, please
 contact Joanna Voigt
 at jvoigt@kansaruralcenter.org



Kansas Rural Center
 4021 SW 10th St. #337
 Topeka, Ks. 66604

info@kansasruralcenter.org
 www.kansasruralcenter.org

Change Service Requested

Calendar

Monday, April 13 KRC Grazing Teleconference Call 7:30 p.m. Call 1-877-304-5632 & enter conference room number: 300 346 2424#. For more information, contact Dale Kirkham at 620-344-0202.

April 16 Lecture & Forum to Honor Prof. Don Stull. 7:30 p.m. ECM, 12th & Jayhawk Blvd, Lawrence, Ks. Contact Mary Fund KRC at 866-579-5469.

May 9 Women in Farming Workshop Linn, Ks. and

July 11 Women in Farming Workshop Emporia, Ks. Contact Joanna Voigt 866-579-5469, jvoigt@kansasruralcenter.org

Please check the KRC website for updated and more detailed calendar and announcement information on the above and for additional events at: www.kansasruralcenter.org

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