

NewsWatch

Grain commodity producers choose new commissioners

WESTERN Kansas farmers have elected representatives to each of the state's five commodity commissions, the Kansas Department of Agriculture announced in March. The election, which occurred between Jan. 15 and March 1, covered districts 1, 2 and 3 — the western third of Kansas counties. Commissioners took office April 1 and will serve for three years.

Commodity commissions and their representatives include:

Kansas Corn Commission

District 1: Brian Baalman, Sheridan County; District 2: Harvey Heier, Gove County; and District 3: Greg Stone, Finney County.

Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission

District 1: Richard Calliham, Thomas County; District 2: Greg Graff, Wichita County; and District 3: Boyd Funk, Finney County.

Kansas Soybean Commission

Districts 1, 2 and 3: Kurt Maurath, Logan County.

Kansas Sunflower Commission

There were no commissioner candidates in districts 1, 2 or 3. Commissioners will be appointed by the Kansas Sunflower Commission.

Kansas Wheat Commission

District 1: Mike Brown, Thomas County; District 2: Ron Suppes, Lane County; and District 3: Larry Kepley, Grant County.



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CONTACT US

Editor: Bill Spiegel
 bspiegel@farmprogress.com
 2507 Sunny Circle Manhattan, KS 66502
 Phone (785) 532-9010 Fax (785) 532-9135

Contributing Editors:
 Don McCabe
 Ann Toner
 John Spittler, Livestock
 John A. Otte, Economics
 Arlan Suderman, Marketing & Management

Executive Editor:

Frank Holdmeyer

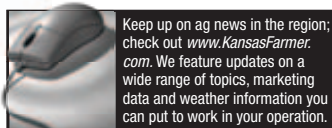
Corporate Editorial Director:

Willie Vogt, (651) 454-6994,
 wvogt@farmprogress.com

Sales: (402) 489-9331

Subscription Questions:
 (800) 441-1410

For additional sales and company information, see last page of the Marketplace section.

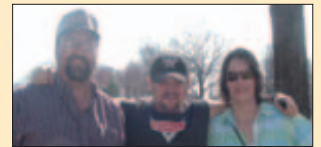


Keep up on ag news in the region; check out www.KansasFarmer.com. We feature updates on a wide range of topics, marketing data and weather information you can put to work in your operation.

Kansas Clippings

Movers and shakers

New officers for the Master Farmer Association elected in March include: **Henry Ericson**, Fort Scott, president; **John Markley**, Howard, vice president; **Sonny Cisk**, Manhattan, secretary; **Bill Mai**, Sharon Springs, chaplain; **Jared Hoover**, Abilene, ag representative. ... Master Farm Homemaker Guild officers include: **Pauline Kress**, Osawatomie, president; **Virginia Kraus**, Hays, vice president; **Cheryl Denk**, Agenda, secretary; **Lois Schlickau**, Haven, treasurer; **Delaine Stalker**, Satanta, historian; and **Janis Moore**, Iuka, scholarship chairwoman. ... **Abby Flory**, Lonestar, has been hired by Frontier Farm Credit as an accounts representative in the association's Baldwin City office.



KFB members "Git-r-done" in D.C.

It's not unusual for Washington, D.C., visitors to bump into well-known members of Congress and business leaders — but Larry the Cable Guy? Dan Johnson, president of Ellsworth County Farm Bureau, and his wife, Sherry, took advantage of a photo opportunity while sightseeing during the Kansas Farm Bureau's annual President's Trip in March.

Kansas Farm Bureau offers grants for agriculture literacy

Kansas Farm Bureau's Foundation for Agriculture will give 10 mini-grants of \$200 each to educators of kindergarten through sixth grade who are integrating agriculture into their lessons. The 2006 Excellence in Teaching Grants are for buying supplies related to ag lessons and projects, such as garden equipment, books, lab supplies and any other tool that combines agriculture with education. "The Excellence in Teaching Grants will encourage many teachers, who often use their personal resources to enhance the learning experience, to put together creative agriculture projects," says John Shostak, Foundation for Agriculture director. The application and more information are available at www.kfb.org/foundation. All entries must be postmarked by June 30.

Kansas FFA Foundation accepting electronic transfers

If you plan to make a gift to the Kansas FFA Foundation, consider the fast, secure electronic funds transfer, or EFT, option. According to foundation secretary Jill Zimmerman, EFT allows funds to be automatically withdrawn from your bank account and deposited to the foundation at your discretion. "You can extend your contribution into installments over the entire year, helping you to plan your budget and make a donation more affordable," she says. Donors must first obtain an EFT authorization form, available at www.ksffa.org or by calling (785) 448-3922.

PHOTO COURTESY DAN AND SHERRY JOHNSON

2007 election for eastern Kansas

CORN, grain sorghum, soybean, sunflower and wheat growers in eastern Kansas will receive information by mail this fall outlining the 2007 election procedure. Also, commission representatives will visit field day events to distribute information.

The 2007 election affects districts 7, 8 and 9.

District 7 includes Atchison, Brown, Doniphan, Jackson, Jefferson, Leavenworth, Marshall, Nemaha, Pottawatomie, Riley and Wyandotte counties.

District 8 includes Anderson, Chase, Coffey, Douglas, Franklin, Geary, Johnson, Linn, Lyon, Miami, Morris, Osage, Shawnee and Wabaunsee counties.

District 9 includes Allen, Bourbon, Butler, Chautauqua, Cherokee,

Cowley, Crawford, Elk, Greenwood, Labette, Montgomery, Neosho, Wilson and Woodson counties.

Grain growers who plan to campaign for a seat on one of the commissions must collect on an official petition form 20 signatures from eligible voters to be included on the 2007 ballot. Official petition forms will be available through the Kansas Department of Agriculture or one of the grain commodity commissions.

No more than five signatures from any one county will be used to qualify a candidate. Eligible voters are Kansas residents who will reach age 18 before the election and have been growing corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers or wheat during the past three years. The filing deadline for candidates is Nov. 30.

Jamestown Wildlife Area benefits from wetlands conservation grant

THE Migratory Bird Conservation Commission recently approved a \$999,345 North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant for the first stage of a three-phase project to acquire, restore, enhance and manage 2,770 acres in the Jamestown Wildlife Area wetland complex in north-central Kansas.

"The Jamestown Wildlife Area represents an important cornerstone for migrating waterfowl and other birds, connecting the breeding grounds to the north with wintering grounds in the south. Once completed, this multiphase project will provide a 7-mile corridor of wetland and native grassland habitat of tremendous wildlife value and spectacular beauty," says project leader Scott Manley of Ducks Unlimited.

Historic wetlands

The Jamestown Wildlife Area is a series of historic wetlands associated with the lower Republican River. In the 1920s and '30s, the main watercourse that traverses the complex, Marsh Creek, was dammed at two areas. This caused the formation of two larger wetland areas and altered the course of the stream and the intermittent nature of the wetlands. This project will restore wetland function and water quality, acquire and restore additional wetlands and grasslands along Marsh Creek and its tributaries, and help restore minimum stream flows to the lower Republican River.

The Jamestown Wildlife Area is an important wetland habitat for migratory birds along the Central Flyway; it links the Rainwater Basins to the north and the Cheyenne Bottoms, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge and McPherson Valley Wetlands to the south. Restoration and protection of this area will ensure the wetland complex's ability to provide habitat for high-priority migratory waterfowl such as northern pintail and other priority wetland-dependent migratory birds such as sandhill cranes, short-eared owls, snowy plovers and black terns.