

Oct., 2017

*Sedgwick County Farm Bureau
Agricultural Association*

316-773-9851

“Farm Bureau News”



President's Report: Max Tjaden

Earlier in September, you may have read or heard the news surrounding Tonganoxie, Kansas in Leavenworth County. Tyson Foods, of Springdale, Arkansas, had proposed and was hoping to construct a chicken processing and feed mill there in Tonganoxie. Tyson was planning to hire 1,600 people, use 8 million bushels of corn/year. This venture was scheduled to cost \$320,000,000.00, which is not just “chicken feed!”

After some peckish behavior and some alleged ruffled feathers, the Leavenworth County Commissioners and the officials of Tonganoxie chickened out on the deal for Tyson to locate there.

Consequently, a lot of other cities and counties across Kansas are not quite so chicken hearted. Currently, there are at least 23 counties across Kansas that are now competing and courting Tyson Food for their poultry facilities. And yes, Sedgwick County and the City of Wichita are among them.

As your county Farm Bureau Agricultural Association president, I was contacted by the Sedgwick County Board of Commissioners seeking Farm Bureau's support for such a project. I wrote and gave our Board of County Commissioners a letter of support for them to use in their negotiations with Tyson and I also sent a letter to the Kansas Secretary of Agriculture, Jackie McClaskey, in order to demonstrate local support from our local Farm Bureau Association.

It is Kansas Farm Bureau policy to encourage and support the growth and viability of the Ag industry in Kansas, even if it wears feathers. We cannot count our chickens as of today as the process of Tyson choosing where to locate counties. However, I have added a joint statement by eight Kansas Ag groups in Kansas (to which many of us belong) on the Tyson processing project.

“We applaud the State of Kansas and other stakeholders, for their continued efforts to improve the Kansas Ag economy, create jobs and expand local markets for Kansas farmers. Private investment is critical to improving the Kansas Ag economy, which is going through some of its toughest times since the 1980's.

Agriculture is the largest economic driver in Kansas, valued at nearly \$67.5 billion and accounting for 44.5% of the state's total economy. Investment in animal agriculture, regardless of species, adds value to local economics. It is crucial for the agricultural producers in the state of Kansas to have many different options when it comes to selling and marketing their grain.

The construction of a new agricultural processing facility in Kansas is a great way to encourage growth and provide job security for both rural and urban Kansas.”

Kansas Association of Wheat Growers
Kansas Farm Bureau
Kansas Soybean Association
Kansas Corn Commission
Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers
Kansas Wheat Commission
Kansas Soybean Commission
Kansas Pork Association

Joe Youngers:

Mark your calendars for the Young Farmers and Ranchers Leader conference on January 26-28 in Manhattan, Kansas. This year's theme is "to the stars through difficulty". At the conference you will hear from Kevin Van Trump, the president and founder of the *Van Trump Report*. Also, you will hear from Kelly Barnes who has an entertaining message to share with you. The conference will give you several workshops to attend with a wide range of topics. If you would like more information about the conference you can go to the Kansas Farm Bureau website. Sedgwick County Farm Bureau is looking to sponsor anyone who may be interested in attending. Please contact the Sedgwick County Farm Bureau office for more information.

Donna Wise:

We had a wonderful Adventure in Agriculture day on September 19 at the Sedgwick County Extension Center. We had about 250 fourth grade students from several schools in the county who came to learn about many facets of what we do on the farm. We had ten different stations teaching the children about the various food groups that make up a hamburger, the many products made from beef besides meat, the many grains that we grow in this area and where they can be found on supermarket shelves, safety practices on and off the farm, all about tractors, and the children had an opportunity to get up close to a calf, chickens and goats. One session uses an apple to portray the earth and then we start cutting away pieces that we can't grow food on like oceans, deserts, and cities which leaves 1/32 of the apple. Then we show how we don't even use all of this and cut away the meat of the apple to show that we use only the top soil. We talk about how important it is to take care of the earth and the land and that the farmers were the original environmentalists. Many thanks to presenters Mary Kohls, Vickie Winter, Jackie Neville, Brandon Dills, and Jon Kerschen and to Mick Rausch for bringing and showing a calf, Robbie Wilkinson for bringing and showing her chickens and to Rhonda and Anna McCurry for bringing and showing their goats. Also a big thank you to Mark Conrady and the staff at Prairieland Partners for delivering a tractor for the children to experience. Also, a big thank you to Sedgwick County Farm Bureau staff, Gayle Ross and Karen Burditt, for all of their work putting the schedule together. Awesome job! The children and their teachers all left knowing a lot more about agriculture!

On October 6, we spent the day at Old Cowtown Museum for their Education Day. Here we showed five kinds of grain and seeds that are grown in this area and what products they buy at the supermarket that are made from those products. It was eye-opening for many of the children and their parents and teachers.

All of these activities we do require someone to volunteer their time to teach about agriculture. I enjoy doing it, but I am not always available and neither is our wonderful County Coordinator, Gayle Ross. It would sure be helpful to have a list of people we can call on for help when these opportunities arise. If you would be willing to spend an occasional few hours teaching kids about agriculture, call the county office or send us an email. It's going to take all of us to spread the word: Agriculture is Awesome!

Kent Ott:

I cannot believe what I just read! Recently I was reading a farm publication by a journalist I respect. He made a comment that was not true. In defense of the reporter, the comment he made had been repeated in several news outlets. But knowing the rest of the story made the comment false. A person who did not have the rest of the information would easily walk away from reading the article totally believing the comment. How do we get information that is accurate? As I write this article, am I accurate? I'm so glad not to be a professional writer!

We hope that our organization presents information accurately. In fact, that is one of our priorities....to advocate for our members and to inform the public about our industry and profession. Have you been to our new website at sedgwickcountyfarmbureau.org? I would encourage you to take a look. Let us know what you think.

Mick Rausch:

And so it begins or Déjà vu all over again. Hello my name is Mick Rausch and I have been elected to the board of Directors of Sedgwick County Farm Bureau again. As I mentioned, this is my second time on the board and quite frankly I am looking forward to being a part of one the best organizations around. But first let me tell you about myself and family and what has changed or not changed. First, I am a retired Dairyman, we retired about four years ago. It was something I had thought about for quite a long time. Making a decision on quitting milking was quite stressful, I had been involved with milking since I was 6 years old. Granted I actually didn't milk cows when I was 6 but we had chores to do feeding calves, getting cows home to milk, all the things kids can do to help on the farm. I had been on my own since 1976 so 30+ years of milking cows making the decision was difficult. The kids didn't regret it one bit any my wife Nancy was very supportive and now I have time to do all the things I never could do. Now I can visit the grandkids and stay for supper and not have to leave early because cows have to be milked. So that has been quite different. My wife Nancy and I live north of Garden Plain, we have two grown children, we raise wheat, milo, soybeans, have some pasture and put up native grass for hay.

Second, I have time to devote to being a better board member. I have been the Policy Chair and Max has allowed me to continue in that capacity again. I enjoy meeting our elected officials and telling our story about agriculture. We are living in an increasingly urban society where so many people don't know or really care where their food comes from or how it is produced. As policy chair, my job is to make and culture relationships with our officials and make them understand that their actions have serious repercussions on my day to day farm. Also, I like to reach out and invite our consumers to educate themselves on the food they buy. So many people think what they read and what they see on the internet is gospel and don't do the proper research to make an informed decision.

Third, this organization is about our membership. In Farm Bureau everything starts from the bottom. Every policy Farm Bureau has developed has started because some farmer somewhere asked why don't we do this? It then goes to the local county farm bureau. If they think it is a good idea it goes to the district listening post. There the county asks the other counties in the district to support this idea. If successful, it then goes to the state and is discussed and if the idea has merit it is voted on by the counties at the annual meeting. I mention this because we just had the listening post in El Dorado and several topics were discussed and are going to the annual meeting in December in Manhattan. So stay tuned for more details later.

In closing, thank you for your support. I am always free to listen to our members and since the tractor has auto steer I can even drive a straight row while talking on the phone. Auto steer isn't that new my grandfather had auto steer on his mule cultivating corn back in the day.

Byron Wells:

As soon as the fields dry out, there will be lots of work to be done. I used to think that summer was the busy season but I think that fall may truly be the busiest season. As we sit patiently waiting there are other things to consider during this time of year. Your local volunteer fire departments are gearing up for their yearly safety meetings. As a way to show our gratitude to these brave men and women, the Sedgwick County Farm Bureau Board provides pizza to the firefighters at these meetings. So if you know of someone who serves as a volunteer firefighter please thank them for their service. We also need to remember and thank our law enforcement, teachers, political leaders and anyone who helps our communities continue to grow and thrive. Hope you all have a great fall as well as a safe and happy holiday season!

YF&R

The end of the year is fast approaching and so are the opportunities to get involved with Farm Bureau. You, the young farmers and ranchers of Farm Bureau, are the future of this organization. Please keep an eye out for these great upcoming events. January 26-28, 2018, is the Kansas YF&R Leaders conference in lovely Manhattan, Kansas. February 16-19, 2018, is the AFBF YF&R leadership conference in Reno, Nevada. Sedgwick County Farm Bureau will provide a hotel room and registration to anyone wishing to attend the Kansas conference (first come first serve). There will also be an opportunity for one lucky person/couple to attend the national conference. If you are 18-35 years of age please check your inbox, contact the office at 316-773-9851, or check out the website www.sedgwickcountyfarmbureau for more information. As always the early bird gets the worm. The sooner you register the better the rates, which allows us to stretch our dollars further. So don't delay

Jay Pauly:

Hello, my name is Jay Pauly and I am from Conway Springs. I am the new Director of District 3 and excited to join the Farm Bureau family.

I am married to my wife, Diane, for almost 40 years. We have been blessed with ten children. We have eight boys and two girls. After this May, all of our boys will be married. Our two girls are currently in college. We keep busy with our fourteen grandchildren. Two more grandchildren will join us in the next couple of months.

I was raised on a dairy farm south of Viola and still live there. I continued to be in the dairy business until August 2013. Now, I still farm and have cattle. Raising our family on the farm was a very rewarding lifestyle.

I am looking forward to serving on the board because Farm Bureau helps farmers and their families succeed in the farming industry. Some of our children have been awarded scholarships from Farm Bureau and were very appreciative of their help.

Todd Kissinger:

Have you been paying attention to those red and green blinking lights flying around your house or in town? My wife and I were at an outdoor concert recently I happened to look up and there were four hovering above us. Drones seem to be everywhere now and they are affordable, they have turned into tools more than Toys.

I was invited by a friend to attend the Wichita tech forum recently where they were discussing Drones in Agriculture. It's turning into a very big deal. For Farmers you really don't need to worry about what kind of drone you have it matters what kind of sensors you have as the explained to the audience. Now the point of the forum to me was not for farmers to buy drones and use them but to hire people to scan the field for you. Now I could see where that application would have a purpose as farmers we cannot do everything or nothing would get done. There are great sensors that can tell you a lot about what's going on in your field. So can they scan your field without your permission? I asked the question to the panel if they see this as a privacy issue because they could collect data off your farm without knowing about it. One individual's answer was (and I'm paraphrasing) air planes and satellites are already doing it so why can't a drone. I didn't agree with his answer but he is right. Did you know that satellites are taking a picture of our fields a couple times a month? They are, and they create NDVI images which are basically images of plant health. Now you might say so what who cares about plant health but what if they could quantify the plant health to yield and know what your crop will make before you do?

I don't think drones are bad tool I actually think they are something that could add value. But I do think there will exploit the capabilities of the drone itself and profit off it. I feel that field of corn or wheat etc, is my intellectual property I know I can't patent it or trademark it but I took my creativity and knowledge to get it done.

Jon Kerschen:

In September, Sedgwick County Farm Bureau put on an event at the extension office called "Ag Adventures," an annual event previously called "Ag Magic." The event is hosted for area fourth grade students. There are multiple stations in which the students rotate on 13 minute intervals. Students are exposed to a wide range of agriculture topics. From nutrition, to livestock, to machinery, we try to educate them on all the aspects of agriculture and how important the industry is to them as a consumer.

This year my station was farm equipment. I didn't have trouble gaining the attention of these fourth graders standing next to a nice, new, shiny tractor. I was able to share with them how we use our equipment to raise our crops and livestock. I also shared with them about the size and scale of farm equipment. One item that seemed to resonate with the fourth graders was how much fuel is used every day with some of this equipment. Telling them that you could easily spend several hundred dollars of fuel per machine per day was eye-opening to them. Also, sharing with them that a new tractor or combine could cost hundreds of thousands of dollars was shocking. One student replied that farmers must be rich to be able to operate such equipment. I tried my best to explain the differences in profits and expenses. Maybe next year we should have an Ag economics station.

Once again, this event was an extremely rewarding experience. Anytime we can share our story of agriculture, it is well worth the time. With so much misinformation about agriculture readily available to the public, we must take the opportunity to share what we do for a living and how important agriculture is to each of us. Thanks to the presenters for taking the time away from their operations to help. Also, thanks to Praireland Partners for providing a tractor for the event.

Bill Carp:

Here I am. It's midnight - hours before the deadline for my Farm Bureau article. Or actually, the deadline was probably 4 or 5 days ago. I'm pretty sure I didn't get it written then because it was midnight and I thought I could probably do it tomorrow. Being a member of the Sedgwick County Farm Bureau Association Board of Directors has its challenges. Actually, there's really only one challenge. It's that article for the Farm Bureau newsletter every quarter. Oh, and it does take up some of your time. You have county board meetings every month, Kansas Farm Bureau meetings once a year, American Farm Bureau meetings once a year, and if you're fortunate enough to be on a busy committee, like for instance the Women's Chair, I think it might be a full time job. And if you're younger than me, you can be involved in Young Farmers and Ranchers. They do all kinds of fun, educational, and competitive activities. Not to mention they have their own annual meetings. I could go on for a long time, but unfortunately I started a little late. What I really notice is all the great new friends that you make and relationships that could last a lifetime. And I also appreciate the networking from other Farm Bureau members and the wisdom I obtain from their experiences. They may be too humble to think their experience is valuable for everyone but I recently learned what to do if you forget to unroll your tarp and end up with seed on top of it. Just drive down the road at 60 mph and problem solved! Or if you climb the ladder on your seed tender and expect to grab the top edge be sure you have unrolled the tarp first. There's no handle on the tarp. So if you ever get contacted about being on the Board of Directors, and you probably will, you're going to want to say yes. Because while it's all the things you think expect it to be, it's a whole world more.

New book released by KFB celebrates Kansas farm and ranch families:

A new book created by Kansas Farm Bureau's John Schlageck is available for purchase as the organization begins celebrations for its centennial starting in 2018.

"Our Land, Our Lives" is a collection of Schlageck's essays and photos created during his 35 years of work at the bureau chronicling the tireless work of Kansas farm and ranch families.

"Our Land, Our Lives' is dedicated to Kansas farm and ranch families," Schlageck says. "It represents more than five decades and five generations of Farm Bureau members. This book illustrates and reflects all the vigor, gusto and spirit in which they live and work."

The hardcover book can be pre-ordered at www.kfb.org/ourlandourlives for \$65 per copy. Books will be available for pick up at Kansas Farm Bureau's annual meeting Dec. 3-5 at the Hilton Convention Center in Manhattan. Copies that require shipment will be mailed mid-December and will include shipping charges.

Proceeds from "Our Land, Our Lives" we contribute to future agricultural leaders. Scholarship will be created for undergraduate students studying agricultural communications at Kansas State University.

See What Farmers and Ranchers Grow

Information courtesy of Kansas Farm Bureau's Safety and Ag Ed Division

Farming accounts for about one percent of the U.S. gross domestic product, but has economic significance beyond the farm gate. The manufacturing of farm machinery and fertilizer is mostly done in metro counties, while farm services and food processing are disproportionately located in non-metro counties. Even in many counties that are dependent on manufacturing or services, farming can be an important component of local communities.

Total Annual Production: 2.5 Trillion Pounds
Crops = 87 percent Livestock = 13 percent

(Billion) Commodity

1,049.2 lbs. Grains (Corn, Wheat, Oats, Rice, Barley, Rye, Sorghum and Millet)

529.2 lbs. Hay and Silage

281.5 lbs. Oilseeds (Soybeans, Sunflowers, Peanuts, Canola, Cottonseed, Mustard Seed, Flaxseed, Rapeseed and Safflower)

208.6 lbs. Dairy Products

148.5 lbs. Cotton, Tobacco, Sugar Beets and Sugarcane

139.7 lbs. Horticulture (Vegetables, Citrus, Non-citrus Fruits and Nuts)

48.3 lbs. Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes, Mushrooms, Hops, Peppermint Oil, Spearmint Oil and Maple Syrup

47.4 lbs. Poultry (Turkeys and Broilers)

24.5 lbs. Pork

23.8 lbs. Beef and Veal

12.7 lbs. Eggs

7.0 lbs. Dry Beans, Peas and Lentils

Source: 2017 AFBF Food & Farm Facts

