

SCFB news

AUGUST 2020

ELECTION 2020

GET OUT TO VOTE

Mick Rausch

Harvest is over, fall crops planted, and field work is being done; now if we could get a general rain and some relief from the heat. But this is July in Kansas, so life is good.

With all the Covid-19 problems the state and county are having, I want to talk about the upcoming elections and Vote FBF.

First, I know everyone is having thoughts about voting by mail. Voting by mail is probably the safest alternative available at the present time. It allows the elderly the chance to vote and still feel safe. If you want to vote in person, the option is still available, too. Also, the elections commissioner is having a problem finding workers to work the voting sites, so be aware of this if you vote in person. Whatever your preference, make sure you vote either by mail or in person.

The County Election Committee, or CEC, met in June to make recommendations for the upcoming elections. Every county has its own CEC committee. The CEC committee looks at all candidates for each position. We consider our personal encounters with each candidate, how the candidate responds to a questionnaire about their platform, their thoughts about agriculture, if they are an incumbent, and their voting record towards legislation regarding agriculture. From there, those recommendations go to Manhattan where the Vote FBF committee tabulates the results from each county CEC committee. They then make recommendations to the state staff to endorse the candidate for office.

Every candidate is endorsed for office based on the county's recommendation; everything starts at the local level. The whole process is time consuming and always seems to come at the wrong time, especially if it is harvest time, but that is the timeline we have to deal with. In Sedgwick County, we have over 30 races to make decisions on for the Kansas Statehouse not to mention the Federal elections. We put a lot of thought and hard work in getting to know the candidates, their platforms, and their willingness to work with us on legislation that is beneficial to agriculture.

So be safe, get out to vote, and enjoy the rest of your summer.

The Kansas and Sedgwick County Farm Bureaus encourage our members and all Kansans to support the candidates endorsed by the VOTEFBF PAC. As Mick Rausch explained, these endorsements represent the experience and viewpoints of your fellow Farm Bureau members at the local and state level. We believe that these candidates will best represent agriculture and our communities.

FOR U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DIST 4

Ron Estes

For U.S. Senate

Roger Marshall

FOR KS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District	Candidate	District	Candidate
81	Blake Carpenter	94	Leo Delperdang
82	Jesse Burris	95	Tom Sawyer
83	Henry Helgerson	97	Nick Hoheisel
87	Susan Estes	98	Ron Howard
89	KC Ohaebosim	99	Susan Humphries
90	Steve Huebert	100	Dan Hawkins
91	Emil Bergquist	101	Joe Seiwert
92	John Carmichael	103	Ponka-We Victors
93	Brian Bergkamp	105	Brenda Landwehr

FOR KS STATE SENATE

District	Candidate	District	Candidate
26	Dan Kerschen	30	Renee Erickson
27	Gene Suellentrop	31	Carolyn McGinn
28	Mike Peterson	32	Larry Alley

Sedgwick County Farm Bureau Agricultural Association's mission is to help members identify their needs and provide services and programs to meet those needs. SCFBAA will work for the success of the farm community which we serve. We will broaden our base by being proactive in community participation which enhances all phases of farm life.

“OUT THERE HELPING”

Anthony Seiler

Even in these uncertain times, there are things that do not change. One of these is the way that farm communities come together to help a neighbor. In the middle of wheat harvest this summer, farmers from around Garden Plain stopped their own operations to do just that. When Jerry Hahn was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and had to undergo chemotherapy, he wasn't sure how he would get his crop in this year. Around 25 farmers showed up and harvested his 550 acres in an afternoon.



Hahn said, “It’s kind of bittersweet. It made me happy I got so many friends and relatives that help me out but yet, like I said, I feel like I should be helping them instead of them helping me.” He says it motivates him to fight even harder to recover so next year, “I can be out there helping those guys.”

Sedgwick County Farm Bureau helped to coordinate media coverage. Among all the challenges in our society right now, it was a bright spot to see a story of community and hope. The story was covered by all three Wichita news stations and was shared over a thousand times on Facebook. It was even picked up and syndicated nationally by CNN. Hopefully, in some small way, the neighborly generosity of that afternoon touched a lot more people than just the Hahn family.

BEING UNCOMFORTABLE IS OKAY

Joseph Neville

Back before COVID-19, the AFBF Annual Convention was held in Austin Texas, and it was everything it was talked up to be and more. From President Trump and his humor, intriguing workshops and tours, and conversations with Farm Bureau members from across the country, I appreciate not only the experience and chance to educate myself but also the time spent with the board members.

There was quite the array of workshops to attend. One particular workshop led by Vance Crowe, a communications consultant, really hit home and offered an interesting perspective on growing in our operations, being open to learning new things, and conversing with folks who have an opposing view of agriculture. He shared an experience from a farm conference where they brought in a vegan to lead a class. Obviously, there were unhappy folks in the audience and heated discussions; neither party was comfortable talking to the other. Vance explained

how beneficial it is for us to get out of our comfort zone, have uncomfortable discussions about agriculture, and to learn and

THERE IS NO OTHER WAY TO EVOLVE THAN TO HAVE NEW OR DIFFERENT IDEAS CHALLENGE YOUR THOUGHTS AND WAYS.

grow as an individual and as a business. It is okay to be uncomfortable. There is no other way to evolve than to have new or different ideas challenge your thoughts and ways. Mr. Crowe encouraged us to get out of our own way, be open to changes that can improve our operations, and be more understanding of others’ views. At the end of the day, give new and different ideas in your operations a fair shake and be willing to have some educated dialogue over uncomfortable topics or get left behind.

The Kansas Young Farmers and Ranchers convention took place shortly after the AFBF convention. We had a nice turnout of folks from Sedgwick County and a good mix of old and new faces attend. It was a great learning opportunity to further our knowledge of agriculture and Farm Bureau.

2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Since 1988, the Sedgwick County Farm Bureau Agricultural Association has been awarding collegiate scholarships to youth from our county. In total, we have awarded more than \$400,000 in that time. The children of any Sedgwick County Farm Bureau member in good standing are eligible, although special consideration is given to students who intend to pursue ag related degrees and careers. We are proud to present our 2020 recipients!



MOLLIE RENO

Over the past 12 years I have attended Cheney USD 268. While in high school I was involved in National Honor Society, Student Council, FFA, Track and Field, Cross Country, Basketball, Catholic Youth Ministries, SAFE Team, and Captains Club. This past year I had the honor to serve as one of the Sedgwick County Farm Bureau Ambassadors. I was raised on my family farm and that was my first introduction to agriculture. But it was not until I joined FFA that I knew I wanted to pursue a career in agriculture. Next year I will be attending Kansas State University and majoring in agribusiness. I would like to thank the Sedgwick County Farm Bureau for choosing me as a scholarship recipient to help make that possible.



JANELLE BERGKAMP

I am Janelle Bergkamp and just graduated from Bishop Carroll and plan to attend K-State in the fall and major in AgriBusiness. I am from Garden Plain and am the youngest of seven children of Ned and Teresa Bergkamp.



VIVIAN STEFFAN

My name is Vivian Steffan, graduating from Maize High School. During high school I was involved in FFA and a mentoring program for middle schoolers. My last semester of high school I got the opportunity to shadow two FFA Advisors which helped me find what I wanted to do after high school. I am going to Butler Community College in the Fall to finish my gen-eds, then I will be transferring to K-State to major in Agriculture Education.



ABBIE SCHWAB

As a three-term Renwick FFA Chapter President, South Central District FFA President, Sponsorship Director for the Kansas Junior Angus Association, past USD 267 Superintendent Advisory Council Member, and 4-H member, Abbie Schwab knows exactly what it means to be involved and to be a leader. With all this Abbie travels across the country showing cattle while also raising, selling and competing on her performance quarter horses. Abbie is going to attend Oklahoma State University in the fall to major in Animal Biotechnology where she hopes to land a career in product development for either a veterinary pharmaceutical or livestock nutritional company.



GAVIN BEESLEY

My name is Gavin Beesley and I just graduated from Slate Creek Prep. Academy. Some of my favorite pastimes are tennis, frisbee golf, playing ukulele, and working with my goats. Throughout my high school career I have been involved with many groups such as my church's youth group, 4-H, and I have been a Farm Bureau ambassador. In 4-H I have been very involved and am currently the president of the Cardinals 4-H club as well as the president of the Sumner County 4-H Council. Through my time in 4-H I developed an interest in livestock and started my own commercial meat goat herd. My future plans include attending Cowley County Community College and pursuing my associate's degree in Animal Science. I have also been selected to be on the livestock judging team at Cowley. Beyond community college I plan to attend Kansas State University to finish my bachelor's degree in animal science with an interest in small ruminant nutrition.



CALLIE HUMBOLT

My name is Callie Humbolt and I am from Mulvane. I have grown up helping on our family farm that has been in the family since 1888. In high school I served as our FFA's Chapter President for two years, and competed in many CDEs and LDEs. I have also been involved in 4H and have shown cattle for eight years and have had many opportunities through that as well. I will be attending K-State in the fall and will be majoring in Agriculture Education. After college I hope to become a high school Ag teacher and FFA advisor. I'm excited to go to Manhattan in the fall and get to meet a lot of new people. Thank you for this opportunity!



889 N Maize Road
Suite 100
Wichita, KS 67212
316-773-9851
SedgwickFB@kfb.org



SCFBAA 2020 ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18
AT 7:00 P.M.
VIA ZOOM

You are invited to the 2020 Annual Meeting on August 18th at 7:00 P.M.

Due to the current Sedgwick County Public Health Order, we will be holding the meeting via Zoom. To attend, please RSVP by email to sedgwickfb@kfb.org no later than August 17th. You will receive a reply with the agenda and link to join. We will also post a recording of the meeting to our Facebook page afterwards. We look forward to seeing everyone back in person soon! Most years we have numerous awards to present at our annual meeting. This year we are publishing those awards here rather than presenting them virtually.

FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR JOY AND BILL CARP

Joy and Bill have been selected as the Kansas Farm Bureau Farm Family from District 4. They and their sons, Brandon and Gavin, farm in Sedgwick and Pratt counties. They have been active members of Sedgwick County Farm Bureau since Bill joined the board of directors in 2012. Joy took his place on the board after his last term in 2018 and also serves as the Scholarship Committee Chair. She also is a member of the Ag Advisory Committee for the Maize school district and both of their sons have been active in FFA. Bill chairs the Kansas Farm Bureau Environment and Natural Resources Committee and has helped organize irrigators in response to the Wichita Aquifer Storage and Recovery program. Regardless of what the future holds for agriculture, they believe that Farm Bureau should continue to be an advocate for the family farm.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kent Ott will be leaving the Board of Directors after six years of service. While on the board, Kent has served as Secretary/Treasurer and his experience in agriculture and volunteer organizations, his thoughtfulness, and his friendship have been vital to helping our organization execute major changes and chart a path for the future. Thank you for your service, Kent.

CENTURY FARMS

Kansas Farm Bureau recognizes family farms whose current owner/operator is related to the owner operator of the farm at least 100 years ago. Qualified applicants receive a metal "Century Farm" sign and recognition from KFB. This year's Century Farms are awarded to the following Sedgwick County Farm Bureau members:

- **Gloria Meyer**, who is the fourth-generation owner of an 80- acre farm near Caldwell which was purchased in 1905.
- **Alice Templeton**, who is the third-generation owner of an 80- acre farm east of Valley Center originally purchased by her grandfather in 1909.
- **Marvin Jelinek**, who is the fourth- generation owner of a 160- acre farm near Bluff City which his family originally purchased in 1892.