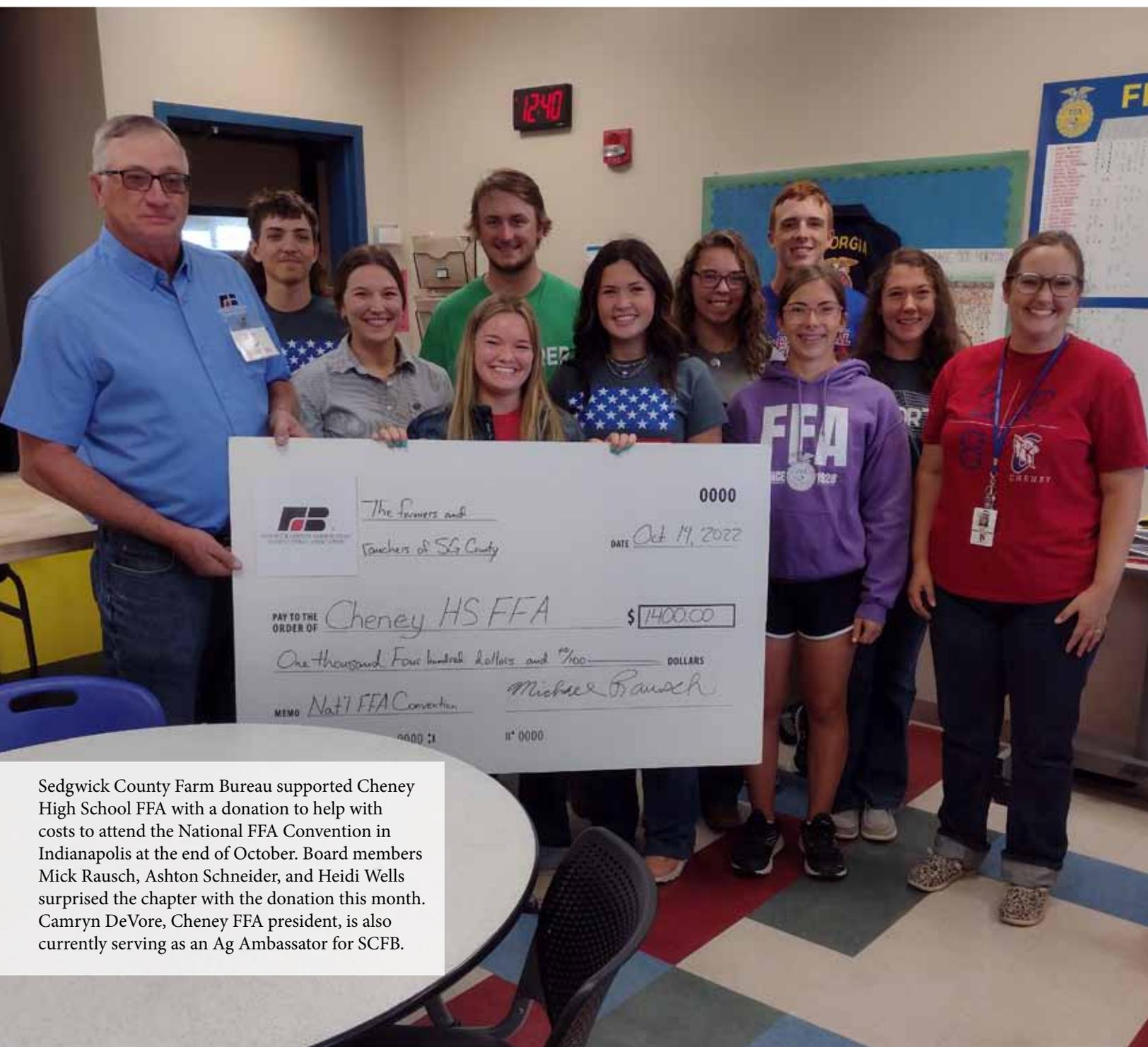


SCFB

OCTOBER 2022

news



Sedgwick County Farm Bureau supported Cheney High School FFA with a donation to help with costs to attend the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis at the end of October. Board members Mick Rausch, Ashton Schneider, and Heidi Wells surprised the chapter with the donation this month. Camryn DeVore, Cheney FFA president, is also currently serving as an Ag Ambassador for SCFB.

SEDGWICK COUNTY FARM BUREAU

HERE FOR YOU

Mick Rausch

It is hard to believe how fast the current year is coming to an end. But first let's talk about what has happened so far in the past several months. This summer, wheat harvest was a pleasant surprise in our local area. Yields were surprising, and test weights were good, too. You didn't have to travel very far to notice a lot of fields that had little or no yields. Then summer hit with a vengeance— hot, humid winds and high temperatures. Most crops are suffering from the effects of very little rain. Pastures and hay fields are suffering also. All in all, we need rain badly and soon.

With all the gloom and doom, it's very easy for farmers and ranchers to feel the weight and affects both mentally and physically. I want to remind

everyone to keep an eye on your family and friends. As farmers, we try and be self-reliant and independent. We try and hide our feelings about how we feel and how things are affecting us. Be sure and get enough rest and take enough time to renew yourself, and if you feel overwhelmed, there are plenty of people and resources available to help.

This is an election year. The Farm Bureau County Evaluation Committee (CEC) has been researching the local and state candidates to best determine which ones are friendly to ag. Sedgwick County has over 30 representatives in the Kansas State House. We also have four national representatives up for reelection this fall. It is important to get out and vote for the candidate of

your choice. Your vote does make a difference. If you are not sure who the ag friendly candidates are, be sure to reference the VOTEFBF PAC endorsements on the opposite page.

Finally in closing, I want to thank our two retiring board members, Jon Kerschen and Donna Wise. Both of these individuals did an outstanding job representing Sedgwick County Farm Bureau. They will be missed. I also want to welcome our new board members, Emily Kerschen and Ashton Schneider. Welcome to the SCFB family. If you see our members out and you have a problem or concern, talk to them about it, and the board will discuss it at our next meeting. That's what we are here for.



Anthony Seiler

If you judged the state of our democracy and country just by what you heard on the news or read on the internet, it would be easy to be pessimistic. The ads, news articles, and Facebook posts don't always reflect well on our leaders or ourselves. However, I count myself fortunate that while working for Sedgwick County Farm Bureau, I get to see well beyond what's on TV or social media to the men and women who are working hard behind the scenes to improve our community and represent agriculture.

Our County Evaluation Committee met four times this summer to consider candidates for local office and make recommendations to the Kansas Farm Bureau VoteFBF PAC, which led to the endorsements you see to the right. These recommendations are based not only on the candidates' platforms and voting records but most importantly on countless in-person meetings and conversations with these individuals. The relationships our members, staff, and KFB builds with political candidates are the key for us to be able to represent and defend agriculture in our state.

Whether you agree with the VoteFBF PAC endorsements or not, I urge you to vote this November and engage in helping improve our community. If you have questions about how the VoteFBF PAC endorsements are decided or would like to be involved in the future, please contact me.

The Kansas and Sedgwick County Farm Bureaus encourage our members and all Kansans to support the candidates endorsed by the VOTEFBF PAC. 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.

- KANSAS GOVERNOR**
Derek Schmidt
- U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 4**
Ron Estes
- U.S. Senate**
Jerry Moran
- KANSAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

District	Candidate
72	Avery Anderson
81	Blake Carpenter
82	Leah Howell
83	Henry Helgerson
85	Patrick A. Penn
87	Susan Estes
88	Chuck Schmidt
89	KC Ohaebosim
90	Carl Maughan
91	Emil M. Bergquist
92	John Carmichael
93	Brian Bergkamp
94	Leo Delperdang
95	Tom Sawyer
96	Tom Kessler
97	Nick Hoheisel
98	Cyndi Howerton
99	Susan Humphries
100	Dan Hawkins
101	Joe Seiwert
105	Brenda Landwehr



For resources that can help care for and assist Kansas farmers and ranchers in their well-being visit kansasagstress.org. You'll find help with stress management, financial and legal challenges, and many other needs. As more tools are developed, this website will be updated and serve as a hub of current information and resources. **For help 24/7, call 1-800-447-1985.**

SEDGWICK COUNTY FARM BUREAU 2022 AWARD RECIPIENTS



Joshua and Loni Moyer recognized for their Century Farm



Bill and Joy Carp awarded the Natural Resources Award



Stacy DeVore awarded the Friend of Agriculture Award

Not Pictured: Kent & Rebecca Ott awarded the Sedgwick County Farm Family of the Year

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.

meet our new BOARD MEMBERS AND AMBASSADORS



Ashton SCHNEIDER

Hello! I am Ashton Schneider, a fourth generation farmer and rancher of Pelz Farm located in the southwest part of Sedgwick County. My family and I grow crops, have an Angus cow-calf pair operation, and sell beef direct-to-consumer. Agriculture has been a part of my life since day one. I have a deep passion for it and love to advocate for the industry. One of my favorite things to do is share our farm and ranch story on social media, as well as connect with other farmers and ranchers across the United States. I believe that community throughout the agriculture industry and informing others about it is very important, especially in the world we live in today.

Sadie NELSON

Sadie joins our board this year as an Ag Ambassador. She is a senior at Sunrise Academy and is active in many school activities as well as helping with her family's ranch and businesses.



Emily KERSCHEN

I am Emily Kerschen, and our family lives outside of Garden Plain where we farm with my husband's family. We have four children: Abigail (11), Jenevieve (10), Willie (7), and Otis (4). I stay home with our kids and have a freelance graphic design business. We are also active members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Cheney.

I am excited and honored to serve on the Sedgwick County Farm Bureau board as Women's Chair. As a former teacher, I hope to bring my knowledge and passion to the role and continue the great work our county does with ag education as well as look for new opportunities to educate about and advocate for our industry.

Farm Bureau has provided Jon and I many valuable opportunities and experiences—the greatest being the many friendships and relationships we've developed through the years! I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve on the board with such excellent people and work for the farmers and ranchers in our county.



Camryn DeVORE

My name is Camryn DeVore, and I am one of the Sedgwick County Farm Bureau Ag Ambassadors this year. I have grown up on a farm and cattle operation just southwest of Cheney. This year I am serving as the Cheney FFA Chapter President, which keeps me busy and gives me many opportunities to grow in ag. FFA has been a big part of my life since middle school when the Cheney ag program was started. Some events I've most enjoyed have been livestock judging, nursery/landscape, and attending the FFA National Convention. I've always had a love for creating art and doing graphic design, and I'm hoping to incorporate that into a future career in ag. I plan on attending Kansas State University next year and can't wait to meet new peers with agriculture-related backgrounds. As of now, my major is undecided, but I am most interested in Agriculture Communications as well as Animal Science and Industry.

SEDGWICK COUNTY FARM BUREAU 2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



BEAU KERSCHEN *Andale High School Wichita State University · Education*

My career goals would be to obtain a teaching position within the Wichita area and make an impact on students lives through the classroom but also through athletics as I also aspire to be a coach.

TATE MCGINN *Sedgwick High School Kansas State University · Animal Science & Industry*

After college, my goal is to come back and work on our family farm and livestock operation. Thank you, Sedgwick County Farm Bureau, for choosing me to receive this scholarship.



WILL TICE *Garden Plain High School Fort Hays State University · Agronomy*

My future career goals are to be the most successful agronomist I can be in the Midwest while incorporating drone technology into farming practices. I would like to thank everyone on the scholarship committee at the Sedgwick County Farm Bureau for blessing me with this scholarship opportunity. I am beyond grateful for being selected.

LANCE PAULY *Conway Springs High School Kansas State University · Chemical Engineering*

My future plans include wanting to stay here in Kansas and find a farm of my own to live on.

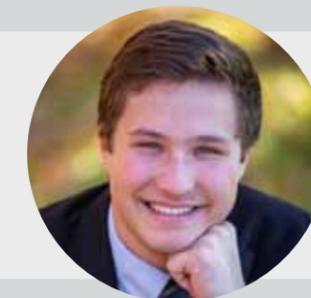


MACKENZIE ANDERSON *Andale High School Kansas State University · Agriculture Education*

I am pursuing a career of agriculture education at Kansas State University.

CLARK NEVILLE *Andale High School Oklahoma State Institute of Technology · HVAC/Air Conditioning & Refrigeration*

My career goals are to one day own my own HVAC business.



TANNER HORMERTZHEIM *Andale High School Hutchinson Community College · Residential Electrical Program*

I plan on becoming a residential electrician, and I eventually hope to be self-employed with my own business.

Did You Know?

About 8% of U.S. farms market foods locally through direct-to-consumer or intermediated sales.

MEMBER BENEFITS: FARM SUCCESSION PLANNING

Zach Simon

We often talk about all the benefits we receive as Farm Bureau members. Most are familiar with the discount on a new Ford truck, 20% off hotel stays, or the nice discount on your Verizon bill. Those are great, but one the benefits that I have recently used is the free farm succession planning consultations through Farm Bureau Financial.

Recently, our family met with an agent from Farm Bureau Financial to discuss the transition of the farm from my parents to my wife and me. In all honesty, this process has gone much smoother than expected. The agent has been super helpful in giving us options on how to transfer assets, setting up the trust appropriately as to insure that siblings get their fair share, as well as providing information on tax implications each option would have on all involved. When we started the process, I went to the first meeting with a lot of anxiety, dreading it to be honest. It was painless. The goal was for the agent to get a better understanding of what assets were being transferred, how we were operating currently, and what each of us would like to see as the end goal. He made it clear that what was said in the meeting remained private,

and we could share as little or as much as we felt comfortable with. He did note that the more we were willing to tell him, the better he would understand and the more he would be able to help us. We are not finished with the process, but I am extremely happy with the help we have gotten so far. I am also grateful that we are putting a plan in place. It may be later than we all hoped, but we are glad that we will soon have a transition plan in place, all while still getting along I might add!

There are several things to note about this benefit. One, this service is entirely free for Farm Bureau members. Two, the service provided is just one step in the process. We will still need to get an attorney to help draft the trust, but this step will save us lots of time and billable hours with an attorney. You get free services from individuals that know the ag industry and understand what it means to pass on a lifetime of work and legacy to the next generation. Third, please don't wait to make a plan. If the next generation is interested in carrying on the farm, work with them to make a plan. Now, less than 1% is producing food for the other 99%. Involve the next generation before it's too late.

YF&R UPDATE...AND MORE!

Joseph Neville

It has been an interesting growing season this year—a good year to be diversified on the farm. That way you can lose money on seven different commodities versus two! Ha! It is always interesting what mother nature throws at us and amazing at how well the crops can handle the weather. It's also cool to see how the genetics in the crops have changed and what they can tolerate. Don't get me wrong—we'll still have poor yields and no yield in spots, but it's impressive to see what we do have for the hand that was dealt. It seems like we have been saying, "If only we could catch a rain, it'd keep the beans

going" for the last two months.

This summer, YF&R hosted our first annual party bus crop tour. We had a very good turnout and filled an entire bus. We were able to make a couple stops before our plans were forced to change. It is quite the story! If you get the chance and are looking for a good laugh, ask one of those who attended; I am sure they will be happy to share their experience.

Look out for a fall event to get everyone together again before we head up to Manhattan for the annual Young Farmer and Rancher Conference January 27-29!



the MAINE THING

Joy Carp

When we became active in Farm Bureau, we could not have anticipated the ways in which it would enrich our lives. We certainly did not foresee feeling like we were living the the Dr. Suess book, "Oh, the Places You Will Go!" Our latest venture was a highlight. It was our privilege to be Farm Family for our district in 2020. With the trip we won being delayed due to Covid, we were very pleased to finally travel this August with the destination of Maine!

We joined up with other award recipients for three days of travel. Two things that are big in Maine: blueberries and lobster. We got to see the backbreaking work required to harvest wild blueberries and the rush to get them processed before they are past prime. A short trip on a lobster boat highlighted the difficulty of obtaining lobster. And maybe it is our distance from the coast, but we agreed that we prefer a good steak over lobster. Maybe that's why they're often served together! Other stops were a sheep farm, a dairy with a rotating floor, and the Maine tick lab. They are serious about ticks there, too.

Every time we have had the opportunity to meet with producers from other areas of the state and country, we have found one thing always in common: it takes a lot of effort to put food on our tables. We are proud to be part of that effort and very humbled to have been honored with the Farm Family award. A very big thank you!



LEAVING A Positive Impact ON THE WORLD

Meghan Mueseler

I recently was asked about my involvement with agriculture and in particular the youth of agriculture. I don't look like your typical farm owner. I live several blocks from the busiest street in Wichita and drive a Ford Escape every day to my cubicle at an agribusiness company.

For me to answer this question, I need to explain a little about my family. I have an older sister who has a learning disability, and after moving to the family farm, which was left to the two of us when we were young children, my parents knew school was going to be difficult for her. We got into 4-H and livestock showing (mainly cattle) to have something we could do together as a fam-



ily and to provide something for my sister at which she could excel!

Although our family got involved with 4-H to help my sister, years down the road the 'servant' leader 4-H creates helped me as well. As a high schooler, I was going through a tough period dealing with anxiety, and my parents had me volunteer at our local church to take the focus off me. They knew that helping others would help me. So fast forward 10 years to living in my first apartment in Bentonville, Arkansas as I was just starting my career; I needed a way to adjust to this new stage of life.

I reached out to Arkansas Young Farmers and Ranchers, weeks later attending their State YF&R Conference. Each time I moved, one of the first things I learned to

do was to get involved in the community, and agriculture was the common thread.

I have a strong passion that youth programs such as 4-H and FFA can and do provide a sense of belonging to the youth who may not have that sense with sports or academics. For me, the work I am doing in the community and in particular youth in agriculture is one of shared core values.

It doesn't matter if you live in the city or if you grew up in a town of 100 (ok, my hometown had less than a hundred) or if your office is the cab of tractor or a desk with a computer—we are all wanting to leave this world a better place. We want the next generation to find success. We are called to live in community with each other.

Simple: I want to give back to agriculture and to Kansas Farm Bureau as they poured into me as a youth who was searching for a place to belong. I hope my 'work' does that for another 'Meghan.' It doesn't take a lot of money or time to have an impact. A simple kind word or an afternoon spent volunteering can be impactful in ways we don't always realize!

"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around." Leo Buscaglia



SEDGWICK COUNTY FARM BUREAU
AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

The Voice of Agriculture®

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**NOV
7**

GRASSROOTS LEADER DINNER

Elmdale, Kansas

Includes dinner, a member insight session, and a KFB presidential forum

**JAN 1 -
MARCH 1**

SGFB SCHOLARSHIP & AMBASSADOR APPLICATIONS OPEN

www.scfbaa.org/scholarships

**JAN
27-29**

YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS CONFERENCE

Manhattan, Kansas

www.kfb.org/Article/YFR-Leaders-Conference

UPCOMING DATES

FOLLOW SCFBAA ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER: @SEDGWICKCOFB | WWW.SCFBAA.ORG