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Our Mission

The Kansas Cooperative Council exists to promote, support and advance the interests, business success and understanding of agricultural, utility, credit and consumer cooperatives and their members through legislation and regulatory efforts, education and public relations.

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Students Attend NICE - Learn About Cooperatives



Back row: Adam Sobba, Macee Kellner
 Front row: Leslie Kaufman, Shelby Droddy, Trent Page

Three Kansas high school seniors and two adult sponsors attended this year’s National Institute on Cooperative Education (NICE) in Knoxville, Tennessee July 16-21. The event was held on the University of Tennessee campus. The students qualified for the trip by placing first in their respective KCC districts on the Council’s co-op test, given after completing an educational short course on cooperatives.

This year’s attendees were Shelby Droddy, Central Heights; Macee Kellner, Stockton; and Adam Sobba, Garnett. Trent Page, agricultural education instructor from Central Heights and Leslie Kaufman, KCC

Executive Director served as chaperones.

The Council has been sponsoring the co-op testing program and sending Kansas high school students to NICE for many years. NICE is the largest conference in the country dedicated to educating attendees about the cooperative business model. Attendees from across the country participate in simulations designed to teach about operating co-ops and fostering group decision-making skills necessary to be a successful cooperative board member.

The Kansas delegation was very involved in conference activities. Macee Kellner competed in the Outstanding Youth Scholar contest and was a finalist for the award. As such, she is eligible to return next year as a student leader. The award is given to a male and a female scholar yearly. Top performer in the co-op simulation went to the “co-op board” that included Shelby Droddy. Adam Sobba’s board was recognized for their work on the board decision-making exercise. We are very proud of all our Kansas attendees and their willingness to be active participants in conference activities.

Local Co-ops Can Connect with NICE

In an effort to better connect those participating in the co-op testing program (which qualifies Kansas students to attend NICE) with their local cooperatives, the KCC board has endorsed adding a co-op visit requirement to the Kansas program.

In order to be designated the top district winner, the student must have also had a visit with a local co-op representative, either individually or as an aged class member.

We hope all of our local cooperatives
(continued on back page)

Dave Studebaker, Chairman
Delphos Cooperative Assn.
Delphos, Kansas

Ed Taylor, Vice Chairman
Golden Valley, Inc.
Rozel, Kansas

Dr. David Barton
Arthur Capper Cooperative Center
Kansas State University
Manhattan, Kansas

Marla Marsh
Kansas Credit Union Assn.
Wichita, Kansas

Mike Pesek
KFSA
Hutchinson, Kansas

Charles Gabehart
Nemaha County Co-op Assn.
Seneca, Kansas

Gary Friesen
Scott Co-op Assn.
Scott City, Kansas

Deb Miller
Farmers Union Mercantile
& Shipping Assn.
Stockton, Kansas

Steve Magette
Dodge City Co-op
Dodge City, Kansas

Dan Cashier
Anthony Farmers Co-op Elevator
Anthony, Kansas

Kevin Kelly
Two Rivers Consumers Co-op
Arkansas City, Kansas

Steve Eck
CHS
Windom, Kansas

Dennis Blick
CoBank
Wichita, Kansas

Mark Anderson
Farm Credit of Southwest Kansas
Garden City, Kansas

Stuart Lowry
Kansas Electric Co-ops, Inc.
Topeka, Kansas

Co-ops ... Proud History, Bright Future



By Dave Studebaker

It's that time of year when the State Fair, the ACCC Symposium and fall harvest all get mixed in together. Dr. Barton hosted another great symposium with excellent information to take home and put to practice. Natalie, Amy and Leslie have put together a new "Hall of Fame" display at the State Fair this year that is getting a lot of attention. And while all of this was going on, I know several managers have been trying to strategize where to put that extra corn that just keeps coming!

Fall is a great time to enjoy the change in colors, the fall crops being harvested and green wheat growing to provide a bounty for next year. We are all truly blessed to be in a nation where we can voice our opinions and elect people we think will represent us and get the job done. Fall is also a great time for football, soccer and volleyball games and the opportunity to compete for best bragging rights.

The fall season, too, is a time for cooperatives to reflect on how they have been

serving producers and consumers in Kansas for nearly 110 years. Producers came together to make something profoundly better, providing a "fair market" for their grain and a place to provide necessary crop inputs to grow their grain. **Doing something together, they could not do on their own.** Building miles and miles of electrical lines to light up the countryside and ease the burden on the family core. Providing credit unions to support the producers in financing their many needs. Our cooperative founding fathers had great vision back in those early years, preparing the path for the future. Now it is our turn to hand over a system that has matured over the years, but yet is still full of energy, ready to climb over the next challenge that is presented. Each of us needs to reflect on the value of the "Cooperative System"; there is none greater that is entirely **"owned by the participants"**. I hope you will take time in October to celebrate belonging to a cooperative!

KCC Board Visits Co-op Cottage

The Kansas Cooperative Council board held their fall meeting at Rock Springs 4-H Center. The agenda included a tour of the recently renovated Co-op Cottage. "It was amazing to see the transformation to the housing area" noted former KCC chairman Steve Magette, who toured the facility prior to the remodeling and served on the Co-op Cottage fund drive steering committee. "Co-ops can certainly be proud of their support for 4-H and the leadership development activities that take place at Rock Springs".

Although the primary fundraising campaign is completed, improvements at the Center continue. Funds are still being accepted for an on-going maintenance endowment for Co-op Cottage or additional projects at Rock Springs. The facility is also an excellent venue for a variety of meetings and events. For more information, please call 785-257-3221 or check out their website at www.rocksprings.net.

2010 ACCC Symposium and Leadership Roundtable

Symposium Focuses on Risk Management Strategies

Co-op leaders gathered in Wichita on Aug 31-Sept. 1 to attend the 2010 ACCC Symposium and Leadership Roundtable. The theme for this year's conference, "*Competitive Challenges: Risk Management and Government Regulation*," focused on the regulatory environment and how that impacts, or should impact, various operations. Key insights were shared, especially on issues involving worker safety. Participants learned of potential changes in regulations and how that can likely impact the operational environment, as well as ways cooperatives are working to improve the outlook for agribusiness entities.

NCFC President Focuses on Competition

Chuck Conner, President of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (NCFC) set the stage for a discussion on the "*Co-op Business Model: Opportunities and Threats*" with a presentation on competition issues.



Chuck Conner, NCFC President, speaks on competition issues at Symposium.

US Department of Justice (DOJ) activities on the competition front, particularly DOJ/USDA workshops, were the primary subject matter. Chuck provided an overview on the workshops, impressions on their impacts and an update on how co-ops have successfully moderated initially anti-cooperative rhetoric coming from Justice.

A key in changing the tone relative to cooperatives is NCFC's "*Farmer Co-ops: Providing for America*" campaign. The outreach initiative involves NCFC staff and individual co-op leaders sharing the positive contributions farmer cooperatives make to producers, local communities, and economies. NCFC has designed a toolkit to help local co-op members tell that story. NCFC has been active with various media efforts and hosted briefings to educate legislators and congressional staffers on the benefits inherent in the cooperative system. Together, all of these initiatives are changing the tone in DC.

The toolkit, along with other resources, is available on the NCFC website. Some of the items would be great to include in your "Co-op Month" activities. We encourage you to view the resources at www.ncfc.org and click on the link in the box that says "Help NCFC Tell the Farmer Co-op Story".

Boland Recognized for Dedication to the Kansas Co-op Family

Over the course of 14 years, Dr. Michael Boland worked to advance cooperative education in Kansas. During his tenure with the K-State Ag Econ department, Boland worked with countless students and adult co-op leaders, advancing a greater understanding of the co-op business model. Boland was named Associate Director of the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center in 2002 and worked with Dr. David Barton on many of the programs, as well.

Recently, Mike had the opportunity to go back home and take an endowed co-op position with the University of Minnesota. The oldest of twelve children, Boland is pleased with the opportunity to continue teaching closer to family.

The Kansas Cooperative Council recognized Boland for his contribution to the co-op community with a presentation during the symposium dinner. Special guests that evening included Hall of Fame members and ACCC cooperative scholarship donors, Otis and Mary Lee Molz, and 2 current co-op scholarship winners, KSU students Kyla Clawson and Kim Kerschen.



Leslie Kaufman, KCC Executive Director (far right) and Dave Studebaker, KCC Board Chairman (center), present Dr. Michael Boland with an award for his contributions to the co-op family.

KCC Refocuses Co-op Month Activities

Each October, cooperatives all across America celebrate the role, accomplishments and contributions of our nation's cooperatives. The 2010 National Cooperative Month Planning Committee's new theme is "Local. Trusted. Serving You: Experience the Cooperative Difference". This emphasizes that co-ops are tied to their local communities in ways that other businesses are not.

We hope you are already thinking of ways to promote your cooperative and bring awareness to your community that cooperatives are the best



business model when it comes to economic and social change.

The Kansas Cooperative Council will be re-focusing its association activities in regard to Co-op Month; as a result, we will no longer present the Co-op Month Awards. We still encourage you to celebrate the cooperative movement during the month of October. Some ways to involve your community in this celebration are: schedule a visit to your local school; serve a customer appreciation lunch; or organize a charity walk-a-thon. Please visit www.co-opmonth.coop for more ideas and information about Co-op Month.

Director Development Program Set for December

The Director Development Program (DDP), sponsored by KCC, is specifically designed for directors and associate directors now serving on Boards of cooperatives. However, anyone interested in improving his/her understanding of a director's responsibilities, and gaining knowledge and skills needed for the job, may attend, including cooperative managers and employees and other leaders of local farmers' cooperatives. Regardless of the size of your local co-op, having a firm grasp on the basics plays a crucial role in directors' abilities to effectively exercise their responsibilities.

It may be difficult for all members to attend all courses at the same time, but having everyone go through the program at one time or another has obvious benefits. Attending in a group (whether in pairs or in larger numbers) will stimulate discussion between directors

on how lessons learned can be applied to their Board. It also reduces the risk of important points and ideas "getting lost in translation," when just one director attends and then reports to his/her peers.

This year's DDP courses will be held:

**December 13-14 - Wichita, CoBank offices
(located in the Farm Credit Building)
December 14-15 - Manhattan, Clarion Hotel**

Course and registration information will be mailed in mid-October. You may also visit our website, www.kansasco-op.coop, where you may register and pay online. The fee is \$175 per course/per person for KCC members and \$200 per course/per person for non-members. Registration fee includes course materials and lunch.

Plan on attending this year to learn and share with your fellow cooperative leaders.

REC Youth Tour Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Though the electric cooperatives' "Government in Action" Youth Tour has evolved over the decades, the values and principals taught to Kansas youth have not changed in the program's 50 years.

The Youth Tour program, sponsored by Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC) is an excellent way for local youth to be more involved in their communities.

Students compete for this unique opportunity and are selected for the program by their local electric cooperatives. Usually the selection process takes the form of an essay contest, personal interviews, or a speech contest.

Students on the tour learn about electric cooperatives,
(continued on p. 5)

During Interim, Focus Shifts to DC



Years ago, when I started working in the public policy field, I was told to expect the schedule to “lighten up” between state legislative sessions. Looking back, that may have been somewhat the case, but that did not last very long and it is certainly not the case now. This year seems to be even busier than ever. There are more legislative issues to deal with during the interim, more federal policies, and more association activities to manage.

Issues

Although the full Kansas legislature is not in session, interim study committees are meeting and the federal government continues to work. The number of legislative and regulatory issues coming down from DC which can significantly impact the co-op family continues to increase. A few of the major issues we are following include:

- Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC);
- Pesticide application – zero drift and NPDES permits;
- Clean Air initiatives – dust, volatile organic compounds, NOx, etc.
- Competition issues – DOJ/USDA workshops and Grain Inspection Packers & Stockyards Act (GIPSA) proposed regulation.
- Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act (health care bill) - 1099 reporting requirement.

REC Youth Tour ... (from p. 4)

American history and U.S. government, and walk away with a greater understanding of their role as citizens. They participate in National Youth Day, visit with their representative and senators and explore the sights around the nation's capital.

“KEC sends high school students to Washington because it is important to learn about the political process and to interact with the government,” said Stuart Lowry, KEC's Executive VP/General Counsel. “Students walk away from this week as better leaders and they gain a sense that they can make a difference.”

Election Outlook

In addition to the policy issues, we are “knee deep” in the political fray approaching mid-term elections. The November elections will bring at least three new Kansas House members to DC. We will have an extremely “junior” congressional delegation next session.

In most every mid-term election since WW II ended, the party holding the presidency has lost congressional seats. It appears the trend will continue into the 2011 elections. There is widespread consensus that Republicans will increase their US House positions. They need 39 additional seats to re-gain control and based on current projections, that seems quite possible. A net gain of 10 seats is needed to change party control in the US Senate. As we write this newsletter, the general thought is Republicans will fall just shy of the count, leaving Democrats still holding the Senate. But, current Senate Majority Leader President Harry Reid (Nevada) might not succeed in his re-election bid, forcing a leadership change within the party.

For much of our history, Americans tended to prefer divisions of power between the 2 major parties, seldom leaving a single party in control of the Senate, House and Presidency for very long. From all indications, 2011 will be a year where Republicans, at least, take back one legislative chamber, continuing that trend.

Cooperatives understand the value of educating today's teenagers on the importance of civic involvement and leadership, he added. “Bringing over 1,500 student leaders from across rural America together truly provides those youths with a once in a lifetime opportunity,” says Lowry.

For more information, contact Shana Holsteen, KEC, at 785-478-4554 or email sholsteen@kec.org. Please visit: http://www.kec.org/youth_tour.aspx?source=topmenu or find us on FaceBook.



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Leslie Kaufman, Executive Director

Local Co-ops...*(from p. 1)*

will be willing and able to “answer the call” when their local students/ag ed instructors ask for a meeting. It can be at the co-op or the cooperative representative may be asked to make a class visit to the school. Each school will work with a local co-op to find the best approach to meet their needs. The school/students may contact any one of our co-op member segments that have business entities serving their local communities: ag/farm supply, rural electric, rural telephone, credit unions, farm credit or other.

We encourage all our KCC members to help students better understand the co-op business model and the role of cooperatives in the local community, if called upon. If you have any questions about the new addition to the program, please feel free to contact Leslie Kaufman at leslie@kansasco-op.coop or by phone at 785-220-4068.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October

1-31

Co-op Month

17-23

Co-op Week

21

International Credit Union Day

November

16-17

KFSA Directors/Management Meeting - Wichita, KS

17-18

KGFA Agribusiness Expo - Wichita, KS

30-Dec. 3

CHS New Leader Institute - Minneapolis, MN

December

2-3

CHS Annual Meeting - Minneapolis, MN

6

KCC Board of Directors Meeting - Hutchinson, KS

13-14

Director Development Program - Wichita, KS

14-15

Director Development Program - Manhattan, KS

January 2011

10

Legislative Session Begins

19

Legislative Action Day – Topeka

18-20

Land O'Lakes CEO/General Managers' Leadership Conference - Nassau, Bahamas

February 2011

9-11

NCFC Annual Meeting - San Antonio, TX

March 2011

22

KCC Annual Meeting - Wichita, KS

22

KFSA Annual Meeting - Wichita, KS

22-23

CoBank Customer Meeting - Wichita, KS