

# THE Agricultural Business Council of Kansas City

April 1, 2014

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## PEOPLE

**Randy Krotz** has been appointed as the first chief executive officer of the **U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance**. Krotz, a K-State graduate who runs a family farm in north-central Kansas, joined USFRA as vice president of development in 2013 and most recently served as executive director. USFRA consists of nearly 80 farmer- and rancher-led organizations and agricultural partners representing virtually all aspects of agriculture.

After serving on **Kansas Farm Bureau's** board of directors for 17 years, **Ottawa County** farmer **Steve Baccus** has announced he will retire Dec. 3, 2014. Baccus served as vice president of the organization for five years and has served as president of the organization since 2002. He began his Farm Bureau leadership role as president of **Ottawa County**

## New KCI Terminal Ready, But Not Yet Cleared, For Takeoff

*A Re-Cap of the Council's March Luncheon*



In an update on the possible construction of a new airport terminal facility at KCI, Dave Fowler, Co-Chair of the Mayor's KCI Advisory Group, said KCI was conceived nearly half a century ago when aircraft, travel patterns, technology and security were different from the present day. As a co-keynote speaker, sharing the podium with U.S. Senator Deb Fischer, at the Council's March luncheon meeting, Fowler pointed out that "nobody has replicated the KCI design" over the period stretching back to 1972. He mentioned DFW, which opened two years later, had incorporated some of the KCI design concept. But over the years Dallas and Fort Worth authorities had undertaken major renovations and redesigns to improve overall efficiency and convenience.

Renovating existing KCI facilities that many in the region seem to favor over development of an entirely new single terminal concept would cost more than a half billion dollars just to start with, said Fowler. "And then you'd have to do it again in five years." The most recent major terminal improvement undertaking occurred during the period of 1995-2005. They were primarily cosmetic, however some critical structural upgrades and repairs could not be accomplished because it required significant additional funding, as well as the closure of an entire terminal to facilitate foundation and underground utilities repair.

Fowler explained that no taxpayer monies would be used to fund airport capital expenditures now or in the future, nor do taxpayers fund ongoing airport operations. Primary funding sources for the capital improvement project would include airport revenue bonds; passenger facility charge-backed revenue bonds; customer facility charge-backed revenue bonds; and airport improvement program (AIP) grants.

Fowler is recently retired after almost 40 years from KPMG LLP, where he was managing partner. He is a past-chairman of the American Royal, and past co-chair of the Kansas City Area Development Council.

**Farm Bureau.** He was the **1992 KFB District Leader of the Year** and in 1996 Baccus and his family received the **District Farm Family of the Year** award. He is a past member of the KFB Natural and Environmental Resources Committee and a past member of the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Wheat Advisory and Grain Quality Advisory committees. In January 2004, Baccus was elected to the board of directors of the **American Farm Bureau Federation**, where he has worked to set policy and direction for the leading agriculture advocacy organization in the nation.

**Missouri Corn Growers Association and Missouri Corn Merchandising Council** are hiring. The **field service representative** will be responsible for building relationships with growers and industry partners in the western Missouri region. This individual will serve as a liaison to Missouri corn growers and work to promote a greater awareness of MCMC checkoff efforts. The successful candidate will also coordinate and assist with programs to increase MCGA membership and advocacy efforts. Position will report to the Missouri Corn office located in Jefferson City and require up to 50 percent travel. Competitive salary and benefits package offered. [Click here](#) for more information.

### 2014 Officers & Directors

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## U.S. Senator Deb Fischer Has Message For Council



As U.S. Senator Deb Fischer, Nebraska, asked Council members for help in getting "the message out about what agriculture really means" for the nation's economy, she also delivered a directive of her own. About congressional gridlock freezing the legislative process and progress, Senator Fischer said, "Don't believe what you hear."

The gridlock is bad, she admitted, but not that bad. The Nebraskan Republican, in her second year as a U.S. Senator, cited her collaborative efforts to successfully introduce legislation with colleagues on the other side of the aisle - notably Senators Al Franken and Barbara Boxer. Last year Senator Fischer and Senator Franken (D-Minn.) introduced a bipartisan amendment to the Senate's 2014 budget blueprint that would promote investment in broadband infrastructure for rural areas. The amendment was approved by unanimous consent.

Senator Fischer noted, "When you hear about gridlock, keep in mind it is a reflection of the polarized attitude of [American] society. However, she indicated there is plenty behind-the-scenes collaboration that doesn't make the headlines; and she is committed to working in a bipartisan manner to advance "sensible policies that will grow the economy and promote strong Nebraska families and communities."

Nevertheless, the Nebraska Senator said she was "sick and tired" of the negative attitudes toward agriculture on display during the farm bill debate. After all, less than 20 percent of the bill's allocations go to farming, and "agriculture took the deepest cuts," she pointed out. It was the vibrancy of the agriculture economy that carried the U.S. through the recession. "We have a good message," Senator Fischer said, "and we have to toot our horn."

## April Luncheon Meeting to Focus on Beef Cattle Production

The Agricultural Business Council of Kansas City is delighted to welcome Dr. Dan Thomson, The Jones Professor of Production Medicine and Epidemiology and Director of the Beef Cattle Institute at Kansas State University's College of Veterinary Medicine, as our April Luncheon Speaker to discuss "Contemporary Issues for Beef Cattle Production in the United States."



Dr. Thomson is recognized internationally as a leader in animal welfare, beef cattle production and cattle health management. He serves as the Global Co-leader for McDonald's Beef Health and Welfare Committee and serves on the Animal Welfare Advisory Board of the Food Marketing Institute. Thomson is the former chair of the OIE Beef Cattle Production and Welfare committee.

[Click here for more information.](#)

## Membership Update

Dennis Bode  
*John Deere*

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*Bayer Animal Health*

Jim Gray  
*Global Wheat Technology*

J.J. Jones  
*Kansas Dept of Agriculture*

Brian Klippenstein  
*Protect the Harvest*

Steve Lightstone  
*CC Capital Advisors*

Damon New  
*First State Bank & Trust*

Diane Olson  
*Missouri Farm Bureau  
Federation*

Kristen Parman  
*Livestock Marketing Association*

Jared Spader  
*AgCall*

Amber Spafford  
*OsbornBarr*

Jeff Sutton  
*Kansas Farm Bureau*

Steve Taylor  
*Missouri Agribusiness Assoc.*

Tracy Thomas  
*U.S. Premium Beef*

Bob Thompson  
*Bryan Cave LLP*

Jere White  
*Kansas Corn Growers  
Association*

Shrene White  
*Cargill/Horizon Milling*

Loyd Wilson  
*Missouri Dept. of Agriculture*

#### **Ex Officio Members**

Mike Beam  
*Kansas Livestock Association*

Gina Bowman  
*CVR Energy*

Elvin Hollon  
*Dairy Farmers of America*

Russ Weathers  
*Agriculture Future of America*

The 2014 membership renewal drive is nearing completion. Please contact the office with membership status inquiries or to pay your dues.



A March 2014 membership roster [can be found here](#).

Please welcome our newest members:

- Rob Elbert, UMB Bank, N.A. -- Individual Member
- David Katzer, Fleishman Hillard -- Individual Member

## Developments

*We invite you to share news and information about the people, activities, achievements and developments of your company and organization. You can e-mail them to [erica.venancio@agbizkc.com](mailto:erica.venancio@agbizkc.com).*

**Damon Frizzell**, Agriculture Advisor of the **EPA Region 7** headquartered in **Lenexa, Kansas**, announced in a press release earlier this week that the **EPA** and the **Army Corps of Engineers** had "proposed a rule to clarify protection under the **Clean Water Act** for streams and wetlands that form the foundation of the nation's water resources." The proposed rule preserves the Clean Water Act **exemptions** and **exclusions** for agriculture. The EPA and Army Corps plan to launch a "robust" outreach effort with discussions around the country to gather input needed to shape the final rule. The proposed rule will be open for public comment for 90 days from publication in the **Federal Register**. For more information go to [www.epa.gov/uswaters](http://www.epa.gov/uswaters).

Kansas City-based **Agspring LLC**, acquired **Bayou Grain and Chemical Corporation** bolstering its **Big River Rice and Grain** subsidiary. Agspring, founded in 2012 is led by CEO **Randal Linville** who spent 30 years in management positions at The Scouler Company in Kansas City, including 10 years as president and CEO. Agspring President **Brad Clark** has management experience from Embarq Logistics, Sprint, Gardner Geary Coll, Callahan Creek and Berstein-Rein.

Developing a thriving rural Missouri is the goal of **FCS Financial's** grant program **Shaping Rural Missouri** that offers **Missouri 4-H** and **FFA** organizations \$500 grants to implement projects that will benefit their rural communities and youth development. Funds are awarded to assist club or chapter members in bringing positive change by establishing projects that make their local communities better places to live. FCS Financial encourages applicants to collaborate with other community organizations to develop and complete their improvement project. Last year, FCS Financial funded 17 projects across Missouri. Projects improved local communities by building picnic tables, planting trees and landscaping school grounds. Applications are due April 15, 2014. An application and more information on the Shaping Rural Missouri grant program can be found at [www.myfcsfinancial.com](http://www.myfcsfinancial.com) or by calling **1-800-369-3276 ext. 1173**.

**Bob Petersen**, executive director of the **Agricultural Business Council of Kansas City**, spoke to 28 members of the **Nebraska**

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**LEAD 33 Fellows** recently at **UMB Bank**. Over a 10-day period participants in the LEAD 33 program traveled to Kansas City, Washington D.C. and Chicago. Nebraska LEAD Fellows met with business, industry and government leaders. The tour included visits to the Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank, the EPA Region 7 in Kansas City and Region 5 in Chicago, the CME Group, American Farm Bureau Federation, the Embassy of the Philippines and the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences. The Nebraska LEAD Program includes men and women, currently active in production agriculture and agribusiness. The Nebraska LEAD Program is a two-year leadership development program under the direction of the Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council and in cooperation with the University of Nebraska's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Program content, essential to leadership focuses on economics, government, human relations, communications, international trade, sociology, education, the arts, social-cultural understandings as well as agriculture.

## Industry Events

**April 1:** The Council is co-hosting a special advance screening of the new documentary, *Farmland*, along with U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance® and the Kansas Farm Food Connection. Filmmaker James Moll's movie will be released nationally on May 1 and distributed in more than 60 major markets. "In *Farmland*, audiences will hear thoughts and opinions about agriculture, but not from me, and not from a narrator," Moll says. The documentary was produced by Moll's Allentown Production with support from the U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance. For more information about the film, visit [www.FarmlandFilm.com](http://www.FarmlandFilm.com).



**April 3:** Please join Missouri Farmers Care for a reception in support of the farming rights amendment. All funds raised at the event will go to support the passage of the Farming Rights Amendment in 2014. This amendment will enshrine agriculture in the state constitution's bill of rights and give us a legal framework that can be expanded on to defend agriculture in the future. The reception will be held Thursday, April 3, 5:30 - 7:00 pm at the Jowler Creek Winery in Platte City, Missouri. [The invitation and registration form can be found here.](#)

**May 22:** The Council's May Luncheon Meeting will feature Blake Hurst, President, Missouri Farm Bureau -- "Keep Missouri Farming". Additional information will be forthcoming. For more information on Amendment #1 in Missouri, [click here](#).

**July 17:** Save the date for a special program - BIG DATA: Challenges & Opportunities in Agriculture presented by the Agricultural Business Council of Kansas City. The event will be held at the American Royal, 2nd Floor Meeting Room, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will include lunch. Speakers will include Mark Blanks, UAS Program Manager at the Applied Aviation Research Center, Kansas State University, Bruce Rasa, CEO, TekWear, LLC, Al Saikali, Co-Chair Data Security & Data Privacy Practice, Shook, Hardy & Bacon. Sponsorships are available.

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