

# THE Agricultural Business Council of Kansas City

## August 15, 2012

### In This Issue

[Trade Ambassador](#)

[July Council Wrap Up](#)

[KS Senators Urge NBAF](#)

[AFA/ Monsanto](#)

[GHG Standards](#)

[Poultry Industry](#)

[CVM 2011 Report](#)

[American Royal Updates](#)

**Council Happy Hour:  
August 16  
Hickok's Bar & Grill**

Who says we're all business?

Come unwind after a long, busy work week with fellow Council members at Hickok's Bar & Grill, August 16th, from 4:30 - 6:30 pm.

The event will offer hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar for attendees! Please use the link below to sign-up so we know how many to expect!

[Register now!](#)

### U.S. Tops List Of Food Secure Countries

The U.S., Denmark, Norway, France and The Netherlands are the five most food-secure countries in the world, according to the Global Food Security Index (GFSI) released July 10 by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). The index, which was developed by the EIU and sponsored by E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Co., examined the core issues of food affordability, availability and quality across 105 developed and developing countries. The

## Trade Ambassador Meets With Council



At an exclusive briefing for Council board members last week, Ambassador Isi Siddiqui, Chief Agricultural Negotiator with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, presented a snapshot view of several key issues facing American agriculture export activity. He noted the nation's \$137 billion of agriculture exports in 2011 was a record, and that total accounts for 1 million jobs related to producing and moving agriculture products overseas.

While Ambassador Siddiqui indicated prospects for continued export success looked good, there were headwinds putting up some resistance. One of the challenges he deals with involve countries using non-scientific factors to deny trade agreements with the U.S. Other obstacles include biotech and sustainability policies in European markets; and Japan has to solve its internal agriculture politics before it can seriously engage the U.S. in talks about growing trade. China is a good partner, although the lack of animal ID programs makes negotiations for additional trade agreements difficult. China has great respect for the quality of U.S. agriculture products and systems, the ambassador noted. If beef restrictions were removed, he said, there could be an estimated \$200 million more in export revenue for the U.S.

Ambassador Siddiqui touted the trade agreements and pending pacts with Korea, Colombia and Panama and is optimistic that the TransPacific Partnership (TPP) will open new markets and continue to develop them. The intent of the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative is increase involvement in the area and to create new trade agreements linked with current technologies.

The session was arranged by the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

## Congresswoman Says Agriculture "Will Lead and Feed"

Despite the drought and the challenging political climate in Washington, Representative Vicky Hartzler (Missouri's 4th Congressional District) is optimistic about the future of agriculture in the United States. Speaking at the July Council luncheon, Rep. Hartzler said farmers and ranchers have always taken their lumps from the weather, policy or trade-related hurdles. "But we farmers and ranchers

categories were further subdivided into a series of indicators that evaluate programs, policies or practices that influence food security.

The top five countries were ranked on criteria involving a combination of ample food supplies, high incomes, low spending on food relative to other outlays, and significant investment in agricultural research and development.

The U.S. was number one with a score of 89.5 out of a possible 100, followed by Denmark at 88.1 and Norway at 88. The lowest scoring country in the survey was the Democratic Republic of Congo, at 18.4.

### Teva Animal Health Announces New Canine Product

Teva Animal Health, St. Joseph, Missouri, has identified a new category of canine health, and is launching Alenza™ to address the concept of "whole body comfort" for dogs.

According to Teva researchers, whole body comfort can be achieved by modulating multiple pathways of inflammation, managing the negative effects of free radicals, cytokines and arachidonic acid. Along with supporting normal metabolic processes in a canine's body, this provides the balance needed for ongoing comfort and a positive quality of life.

Alenza contains a proprietary bioflavonoid formulation derived from natural botanicals, Scutellaria bailcalensis and Acacia catechu, combined with powerful antioxidants to support normal metabolic processes in a dog's body for ongoing comfort, peak condition and quality of life. There are several ways to use Alenza with the most common being supplemental support for normal daily activities and aging pets. Other uses include supporting immune function and joint flexibility for overall body comfort and helping normal



always persevere," she stated, mentioning agriculture's comeback from the 1980 drought and that season's 110 degree temperatures among other historical events. "Why do we do it?" she asked. "Because it is the best industry there is; we see the reward of our

labor," said Rep. Hartzler who remains an active farmer in the region where she grew up.

Although the economy in general is struggling, agriculture is doing all right, Rep. Hartzler noted. Most of the industry's problems come from policy, and uncertainty about health care issues and taxes. "The Dodd-Frank regulations have hurt the community banks that farmers rely on," she said.

In her work on the House Agriculture Committee, as well as the House Armed Services Committee, Rep. Hartzler is trying to remove overreaching policy and regulatory barriers and "bring certainty back." She attributed much of the regulatory burden farmers have to carry on a "lack of commonsense in Washington." Commenting on new farm labor rules, Rep. Hartzler said, "Parents know what's best for their kids, not Washington." She also decried restrictions on agriculture dust and rulings about manure. "These are huge threats," she said, "you can't farm without raising dust and manure is not hazardous waste."

[Continued here...](#)

### Kansas Senators Urge DHS to Move Forward on NBAF

U.S. Senators Pat Roberts and Jerry Moran, along with Kansas Governor Sam Brownback issued a joint statement in late July calling for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to begin construction of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility adjacent to Kansas State University immediately.

Their statement coincided with the release of a National Academies of Science's (NAS) conclusion that the U.S. needs a centralized laboratory focused on studying the risk of foreign animal disease threats, and developing responses. The NAS report is entitled "An Analysis of the Requirements and Alternatives for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Research and Diagnostic Laboratory Capabilities."

[Continued here...](#)

### AFA and Monstanto Continue Partnership

Agriculture Future of America and Monsanto will continue their 14-year partnership to identify, encourage and support outstanding college men and women who are preparing for careers in the agriculture and food industry.



"AFA is a unique organization that has been successful in creating

recovery after surgery, injury or during rehabilitation.

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leader training, personal development and peer networking opportunities for young adults who are interested in careers in agriculture," said Karen Wishart, Monsanto vice president of human resources. "We are pleased that AFA is so dedicated to supporting individuals committed to the sustainability and growth of our industry and look forward to a continued partnership."

[Continued here...](#)

## EPA Keeps Same GHG Standards For Now

The Environmental Protection Agency announced July 3 that it will not revise greenhouse gas (GHG) permitting thresholds under the Clean Air Act. The agency said this final rule is part of its "common-sense, phased-in approach to GHG permitting under the Clean Air Act, announced in 2010 and recently upheld by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

Rick Krause, senior director of congressional relations at the American Farm Bureau Federation, said the announcement does not give the agriculture industry much assurance. It prolongs the inevitable a little bit longer, he noted, but is not going to exempt agriculture in the end.

[Continued...](#)

## Poultry Industry Refutes ABC News' Food-Safety Charges

After ABC News' Good Morning America aired a report on July 11 citing a Canadian study that indicated a link between the E. coli and poultry products, the poultry industry pushed back. Experts in poultry science and veterinary and food-safety fields affirmed the safety of chicken, and questioned claims made by the report. They were also skeptical about the research behind the report.

"This story has nothing to do with antibiotics in poultry production and further changes to antibiotic use in poultry will not change the potential human health risks associated with these food borne E. coli," said Randall Singer, DVM, Ph.D., associate professor of epidemiology

"The data is not an accurate representation of how antibiotic resistance transfers from meat to humans, said Charles Hofacre, DVM, Ph.D, professor and director of clinical services at the Univ. of Georgia's College of Veterinary Medicine. "The study's authors are making some really big stretches of their data," he added.

[Continued...](#)

## CVM 2011 Annual Report Available

A study by a team of university and government scientists led by a Kansas State University researcher, indicates that genes responsible for seed shattering - the process by which grasses disseminate their seeds - were chosen in a similar, but independent manner during sorghum, rice and maize domestication. The study, "Parallel domestication of the Shattering1 genes in cereals," was published May 13 in the online version of the journal, Nature Genetics.

Copies of the Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) annual report for 2011 is available both online and in hard copy. The 140-page report covers CVM activities running from October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011.

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The CVM regulates the manufacture and distribution of food additives and drugs that will be given to animals. These include animals from which human foods are derived, as well as food additives and drugs for pet (or companion) animals. CVM is responsible for regulating drugs, devices, and food additives given to, or used on, over one hundred million companion animals, plus millions of poultry, cattle, swine, and minor animal species.

To obtain a copy write to : CVM Communications Staff, HFV-12, 7519 Standish Place, Rockville, MD 20855 or call 240-276-9300. The report can also be found online [here](#).

## Royal Updates: News from the American Royal

- **Education Programs:** Education Director Al Davis will soon be leaving to become the assistant director of the Kansas Agricultural and Rural Leaders (KARL) program based in Manhattan, KS. Kristie Bray Larson has accepted the position and will be the Royal's new Director of Education. She will also be the staff leader for the volunteer program, help with grant writing, and other such "duties as may be assigned." She is a University of Missouri graduate with a degree in agriculture education.
- **Be an American Royal Governor:** 2012 American Royal Governorships are now available! To purchase yours and become a part of the American Royal's 113th Season, [CLICK HERE](#).
- **Parade Kick-Off:** Join us on Saturday, September 29 for the annual American Royal Parade, a Kansas City tradition since 1926. Each year approximately 115 entrants participate including some of Kansas City's best marching bands and drill teams, saddle clubs, vintage cars, exquisite civic groups and decked-out parade floats. Many of the floats celebrate the parade's agriculture theme, honoring The American Royal's commitment to fostering the development of young Americans in the wide variety of agricultural fields. This year there will be a heavy emphasis on paying tribute to the American military and showcasing both past and present technology along with the men and women who have committed to serve our Nation!
- **Royal Scholar Program:** The American Royal has announced the recipients of its 2012 Royal Scholar Program. The Royal Scholar Program is designed to provide an opportunity for outstanding college students to advocate the food and fiber industry, leadership and the American Royal. In recognition of the outstanding achievements of the Royal Scholars and their continuing advocacy of the food and fiber industry, the American Royal Association will award a \$2,500 scholarship to each student selected to be a member of the Royal Scholars. 2012 Recipients are:
  - Claire Carlson, Kansas State University
  - Bethany Markway, Missouri State University
  - Marie English, University of Missouri
  - Katie Steinlage, Iowa State University
  - Charles Reagan Kays, Kansas State University
  - Cheyenne Wiley, Southwest Oklahoma

