

THE Agricultural Business Council of Kansas City

February 2, 2012

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UPCOMING COUNCIL EVENTS

February 23
Congresswoman
Lynn Jenkins
11:30 am
American Royal

March 22
KC Mayor Sly James
11:30 am
American Royal

April 19
Craig Wallace
Animal Health Corridor
11:30 am
American Royal

May 16
Mariner Kemper
11:30 am
American Royal

2012 Dues Renewals

Council Will Host Lynn Jenkins At February Luncheon



As the featured speaker at the Agriculture Business Council's monthly luncheon, February 23, U.S. Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins will update Council members on how Congress is dealing with the agriculture issues in the current legislative session.

Congresswoman Jenkins, who represents the Second District of Kansas (which includes Topeka, Leavenworth, Manhattan, Pittsburg, the western half of Lawrence and the majority of northeast and southeast Kansas), serves on the House Committee on Ways and Means as well as the Trade and Oversight Subcommittees.

She grew up on a dairy farm near Holton and graduated from KSU and Weber State College in Ogden, Utah where she studied accounting and economics. After working as a CPA in the private sector, she began a career in public service in 1998 in the Kansas Legislature. In 2002, Rep. Jenkins was elected the 37th State Treasurer of Kansas, and held that position until 2009 when she was sworn into the U.S. Congress after the 2008 general election.

The luncheon will take place at the American Royal starting at 11:30. For more information visit: www.agbizkc.com

Be on the look out for 2012 Dues Renewals in your email inbox! This year the Agricultural Business Council of Kansas City will be strictly digital. Dues renewals should be to current members by mid February. We look forward to having everyone back with the council in 2012!

Join the LMA Team

LMA is currently seeking a **Communications and Training Director** to work on their industry news and public relations projects and also work directly with their livestock auction market members on animal handling training programs.

For more information on the position, contact Kristen Parman, Vice President Membership Services, (800) 821-2048 or kparman@lmaweb.com

Join the team at the American Royal

The American Royal has an opening for an event coordinator with primary responsibility for the Association's parade and marketplace activities. This is an entry-level position. Key attributes for the successful candidate will be exceptional organizational skills, attention to detail and initiative.

Interested candidates may wish to visit the Association's web site (www.americanroyal.com) for further perspective on the group's activities. For further information, contact Bryden Becker at brydenb@americanroyal.com or by telephone at (816) 569-4010.

NCIS Promotes Two

National Crop Insurance Services, Overland Park, Kansas, announced the promotions of two staff members. Laurie Langstaat has been elevated to Vice President of Public Relations. For the last 22 years, she served as director of the public relations department. Sherri Scharff will assume responsibilities for Member Services as Vice

Shook, Hardy Updates Council On Agriculture Legal Issues



This year's legal update on agricultural affairs presented annually by Shook, Hardy, Bacon for Council members was combined with the Missouri Department of Agriculture's Governor's Conference on Agriculture at the Westin Crown Center. Several SHB partners described some of the challenges agriculture faces in food safety, labeling, the environment and agriculture employment.

SHB partner Timothy Congrove noted it had been almost ten years since a federal judge had ruled against the plaintiff in *Perlman vs McDonalds* - a case brought against the food chain alleging its food was responsible for making people obese. But the fallout from the ruling has been that activists and consumer watchdogs are focusing on labeling, misbranding and taking an even closer look at the "all-natural" and "100% organic" claims. Activists, he noted, follow FDA activities in monitoring and regulating food company claims and labels, and are ready to follow with lawsuits if they spot an opportunity.

[Continued here...](#)

Kansas Objects To Proposed EPA Feedlot Rule

Kansas Governor Sam Brownback and Attorney General Derek Schmidt submitted a letter this month urging the EPA to scrap a proposed regulation on Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs). Brownback and Schmidt cited concerns that the rule would place an undue burden on Kansas livestock producers.

"This rule is an example of the federal government overstepping its boundaries," the letter stated. "The EPA lacks jurisdiction over non-discharging CAFOs and therefore has no legal authority to gather information from these operations."

[Continued here...](#)

Hill's Executive To Serve The AHC

Kostas Kontopanos, the new president of U.S. operations for Hill's Pet Nutrition, will also serve as vice president of the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor in 2012, moving up to president of the group in 2013. The AHC group actively recruits other animal health businesses to set up facilities in the Kansas City area. Kontopanos expects to network with other executives and continue to build Hill's reputation within the veterinary profession at a time that organized veterinary medicine is aggressively attempting to re-establish the veterinarian as the expert source for nutrition advice and that crucial initial recommendation.

President.

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Bob Thompson

Big Plans for Ag Day 2012



Over the last several years interest and momentum around Ag Day celebrations across the country have picked up steam. Attendance at activities staged in Washington, D.C., has grown consistently, and last year it was the highest ever.

The Agriculture Council of America (ACA) organizers of the event, is planning an even bigger celebration for 2012 Ag Day on March 8 in Washington. If you and your company, schools and interest groups would like to commemorate the day locally, you can get ideas and materials from the ACA - go to the AgDay website: www.agday.org.

KSU to Play Key Role in New \$25 Million Beef Safety Research



Kansas State University scientists will join researchers from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and other universities and government agencies in a coordinated approach to improve the safety of beef. The \$25 million effort will focus on ways to reduce the occurrence and public health risks from Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC), a serious threat to the food supply that results in more than 265,000 infections in the United States

each year. Eating contaminated food or direct contact with fecal matter from infected cattle and other ruminants causes most of these illnesses. The grant was awarded to UNL by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

"As a national leader in food safety research and education, Kansas State University is pleased to play a major role in a project so vital to the health of the American public," said Kirk Schulz, K-State president. "As we work toward becoming a top 50 public research university, projects like these showcase our exceptional research track record in this area."

[Continued here...](#)

Missouri Congressmen Gain Waivers to Highway Bill

U.S. Representatives Sam Graves and Blaine Luetkemeyer led a successful effort to get language clarifying congressional intent regarding the Agriculture Hours-of-Service (AgHOS) regulations

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

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written into the Highway Bill.

The language clarifies that AgHOS exemptions apply to all movements of critical farm supplies: from source to retail, source to farm and retail to farm. The exemption is limited to within a 150 air mile radius from the source of the commodities or the distribution point for the farm supplies.

[Continued here...](#)

AFA offers Scholarships for Students in Agriculture



As the cost of college tuition continues to rise, scholarship support becomes a top priority for students and their parents. Agriculture Future of America (AFA) is working to assist young people pursuing agricultural-related careers by providing academic financial support and partnering with other organizations to offer scholarship opportunities.

Here are several scholarship opportunities currently available through AFA and its partner organizations:

- AFA Leader and Academic Scholarships
- William J Collins Scholarship

To read more about these opportunities, [click here...](#)

Land O'Lakes Purina Feed And Gevo Inc. Join In iDGs Agreement

Gevo, Inc., a renewable chemicals and advanced biofuels company, has signed an off-take and marketing agreement with Land O'Lakes Purina Feed for the sale of distillers grains from Gevo's isobutanol production facility (isobutanol distillers grains or, iDGs) at Luverne, Minnesota. Land O'Lakes Purina Feed will be the exclusive marketer of Gevo's isobutanol dried and modified wet distillers grains for the animal feed market.

The companies also plan to work together to explore opportunities to upgrade the material for special value-added applications in feed markets. "Corn is interesting as a feedstock because it has both protein and carbohydrates. Producing protein and animal feed from agriculture is extremely important, and selling the protein for feed, and using the excess carbohydrate for chemicals and fuels makes great sense given the fact that almost all of the nutritional value of corn can be captured in the animal feed product," said Patrick Gruber, CEO of Gevo.

[Continued here...](#)

Teva To Restart Animal-Vaccine Production At Plant

Teva Pharmaceutical, the world's largest generic-drug maker, is restarting generic animal-vaccine production at its St. Joseph, Missouri plant, after work was shut down a couple of years ago. Saying the plant failed to comply with current Good Manufacturing Practices involving quality control, employee training and manufacturing practices, the FDA halted operations there in 2009.

Teva's plant should resume work in the first quarter of the year, after the company spent about \$14 million to bring the plant into compliance.

Israel-based Teva manufactures animal vaccines through its subsidiary, Teva Animal Health, Inc.