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# THE Agricultural Business Council of Kansas City

## July 3, 2012

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### American Royal Names BBQ Coordinator

Stacy Porto has joined the staff of the American Royal as its Barbecue Event Coordinator. A lawyer by training, Porto has served at the USDA as an assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Civil Rights.

For two years Porto worked on The White House advance team and traveled with First Lady Michelle Obama to coordinate logistics for her appearances. Most recently she has operated her own business focusing on political and legal matters. Her clients have include many prominent local political officials. Porto succeeds Melissa Pate.

### Expansion Continues for Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica

## Council Members Get History Lesson

In an impromptu, spellbinding presentation at the June Council luncheon meeting, Bob Kendrick, president of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, recounted how fast legendary Negro Leagues and Baseball Hall of Famer star James "Cool Papa" Bell really was. Kendrick said his teammates described Bell, who stole 173 bases in one season, as so fast he could enter his bedroom, turn off the light switch, then get undressed, ready for bed and hop in the sack - before the room got dark.



Well, Kendrick, showed some of that quickness himself. Less than an hour before the lunch he got a call from the Council asking if he would fill in as the guest speaker. The original keynoter had become ill. So, not only did Kendrick say yes, he also arrived within minutes and proceeded to fascinate Council members with stories about the Negro Baseball

Leagues, the players, the Major League All Star game coming up here in Kansas City and, most importantly, what a treasure the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum is. He emphasized how the displays, artifacts and information contained in his museum are more than just a history of the game African American athletes played. "It's a history of America," he said, one that is hardly noted in the traditional historical accounts of American culture.

In the next couple of weeks, however, the museum will be getting a lot of notice. It's part of the celebration and hoopla surrounding the All Star Game July 10. Look for a special feature on the museum in the Friday, July 6, edition of USA Today. Fox Sports Network and other national broadcast outlets will also be airing special reports and documentaries focusing on the Negro Baseball Leagues and its stars.

For information about the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum go to [www.nlbm.com](http://www.nlbm.com).

Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica Inc, announced plans to expand facilities in St. Joseph that will call for at least 25 new jobs. Another expansion in the works would add more than 80 jobs in the future.

The St. Joseph Metro Chamber announced in late June that the company will use a 260,000-square-foot building in Eastowne Business Park for packaging and distribution. That will create more than 25 new logistics jobs and preserve 60 jobs in St. Joseph. Chamber CEO Ted Allison said landing the project in the St. Joe area involved a 10-month effort that included local and state incentives.

### **KSU's Latest Animal Health Corridor Lecture Series**

Kansas State University's Animal Health Supply Chain Program is hosting another seminar in July as part of their Animal Health Corridor Lecture Series at the K-State Olathe campus on July 19, 2012.

Event Title: " The Quality Unit and its Relationship to Evolving FDA and USDA Regulations"

Speakers: Dr. Miguel A. de Soto-Perera, Director, Managing Consultant at Beckloff Associates, a Cardinal Health Company; and Dr. Jim McCord, Quality Director at Ceva Biomune

Date: Thursday, July 19th, 2012  
Location: K-State Olathe Campus, 22201 W. Innovation Drive, Olathe, KS 66061

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
For More Information or to RSVP: [CLICK HERE.](#)

### **2012 Officers & Directors**

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## **Congresswoman Hartzler to Address Council**



The Agricultural Business Council of Kansas City is pleased to welcome Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler of Missouri as the featured speaker for its monthly luncheon, Friday, July 13th, 2012. Her topic will be: "American Agriculture: Threats and Opportunities 2012."

Vicky Hartzler is the Representative for Missouri's 4th Congressional District, having been elected to that position on November 2, 2010. She is a member of both the House Armed Services Committee and the House Agriculture

Committee. To register for the upcoming July luncheon and meeting, [CLICK HERE.](#)

Registration will close Wednesday, July 11th.

## **AFA Wraps Up Busy Month**

The June calendar for the Agriculture Future of America was filled with key announcements, board introductions and staff promotions.



The AFA announced it will be honoring Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh and Howard G. Buffett as the 2012 AFA Leader in Agriculture Awards recipients. Dr. Flinchbaugh has served as professor of agricultural economics at Kansas State University for 41 years and has touched every farm bill since 1968. Buffett, an Illinois farmer, is also involved in philanthropy and agriculture research through the work of the Howard G. Buffett Foundation, whose mission is to improve the standard of living and quality of life for the world's most impoverished and marginalized populations.

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## KDA Staff Changes

The Kansas Department of Agriculture announced several key staff changes that took place last month in the communications and legal sections of the department.



**Mary Geiger** joins the KDA as its communications director. A Troy, Kansas, native, Geiger was most recently the associate director of communications at the National Cattlemen's Beef Association in Washington, D.C. She will be the primary contact for all media and communications questions. Her contact information at KDA is 785-296-2653 (office); 785-431-5049 (cell);

[Mary.Geiger@kda.ks.gov](mailto:Mary.Geiger@kda.ks.gov).

**Kim Christiansen** will head the legal affairs section of the KDA as chief counsel. Prior to joining KDA, she was chief counsel for the Kansas Water Office. Before commencing her full-time status as chief counsel, Christiansen had been dividing her time between the two agencies for a couple months. Christiansen's contact info at KDA is 785-368-6597; [Kim.Christiansen@kda.ks.gov](mailto:Kim.Christiansen@kda.ks.gov).

**Chelsea Good**, a recent law school graduate, has come on board as a staff attorney dealing with legal and policy issues for the Animal Health Division. Her contact information at KDA is 785-296-2492 (office); 913-735-9065 (cell); [Chelsea.Good@kda.ks.gov](mailto:Chelsea.Good@kda.ks.gov).

## Ceva Biomune Using Kansas Bioscience Authority Facilities

Ceva Biomune is moving part of its Kansas City-area staff to the Kansas Bioscience Authority's Venture Accelerator incubator for the next year as the company completes extensive renovations to its research and development facility in Lenexa. Ceva has leased 5,995 square feet of office and lab space for 30 workers in the Venture Accelerator in Olathe. Ceva is the ninth company in the KBA facility, which now is 80 percent leased.

Two years ago Ceva Biomune, a company of France-based Ceva Sante Animale, designated its Lenexa, Kansas operations as North American headquarters after receiving a \$700,000 grant from the KBA. The company has 220 employees in the Kansas City area, including 50 that were added during the past 18 months.

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## KSU Researchers Discover the Gene that Controls Shattering in Sorghum

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

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domestication of the Shattering1 genes in cereals," was published May 13 in the online version of the journal, Nature Genetics.

"When early human groups were domesticating different wild grasses, they inadvertently or unintentionally selected the same sets of mutations that make more efficient crop production possible," said Jianming Yu, associate professor of agronomy at KSU. "That was critical in the transition out of the hunter-gatherer phase of human history. You can call it just luck or the wisdom of ancient farmers, both of which are fascinating to know."



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## Golfers Hit The Links For Missouri 4-H

Golfers playing in the Missouri 4-H Foundation Clover Classic Golf Tournament raised more than \$25,000 for the state's agriculture youth at the event that took place in Columbia in early June.



Clover Classic committee was led by co-chairs Bob Idel and John Raines, and included Jerry Dowell, Morris Burger, Nelda Godfrey, Tom Henderson, Patricia

Koenigsfeld, Ina Linville, Cheryl Reams, George Thomas and Kristen Heitkamp.

"We were thrilled with the great support shown by our 4-H Foundation friends and partners for the Clover Classic Golf Tournament," said Cheryl Reams, Missouri 4-H Foundation executive director. "Everyone had a great time while raising funds in support of the MU Extension 4-H Youth Development program."

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## Panel Offers Snapshot of The Animal Health Industry

The food-animal sector of the animal health industry is robust, despite the woes others in the business - like veterinarians - have been experiencing. That's the view taken by participants of a roundtable put on Wednesday in Kansas City June 21 by Stinson Morrison Hecker LLP and Brakke Consulting.

Ron Brakke noted a decline in patient traffic in companion animal veterinary practices in 2011, and attributed falloff in general to the arrival of generic, OTC products such as parasiticides. But he said the food animal segment (44% share of the animal health market) of the animal health industry will continue to be strong in the next several years, although most of the strength will derive from inflation and price increases.

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