

THE Agricultural Business Council of Kansas City

February 1, 2010

Stenholm to Address Feb. 4 Luncheon Meeting



Former Texas Congressman Charlie Stenholm will be the featured speaker at the Council's February 4 luncheon at the American Royal. Stenholm, now a senior policy advisor for the law firm of Olsson Frank Weeda Terman Bode Matz, will be addressing "Ag Policy Update: Major Issues Facing American Agriculture."

Stenholm's comments are expected to touch on such areas as: the looming federal budget deficit and its implications for agricultural spending; outlook for a 2012 Farm Bill; prospects for climate change legislation; animal welfare/horse slaughter; animal identification; and sustainability. To register for the event, click [here](#) or contact Erica Venancio at erica.venancio@agbizkc.com; further information is available at the Council web site, www.agbizkc.com.

State, Congressional Issues are Topics for Upcoming Meetings

Mark your calendars now for the Council's March 5 and May 17 luncheons where State and Congressional issues will be at the forefront.

- March 5: Guest speakers will be Missouri Senate Majority Leader Charlie Shields and Kansas Senate Majority Leader Derek Schmidt. The topic will be a general legislative outlook for their respective chambers with a special focus on fiscal and agricultural issues.
- May 17: The Council welcomes the Honorable Emanuel Cleaver II to the podium. Congressman Cleaver (D-MO) will bring his perspective as an urban Member of the area's Congressional District and discuss key Congressional issues.

Regional News You Should Know

Chumley to Lead Heartland Plant Innovation Center

Dr. Forrest Chumley was officially introduced as the new President of Heartland Plant Innovation (HPI) Center on January 29. Forrest, a Council member, previously was vice president of crop production for Edenspace. He is a former associate director of the Kansas State University's Agricultural Experiment Station.

HPI is a cutting-edge collaboration of the Kansas BioScience Authority, Kansas Wheat, Kansas State University, the University of Kansas and private stakeholders. HPI received \$4 million in start-up funding from the BioScience Authority for fiscal 2010. The Center will use state-of-the-art technology to conduct wheat, sorghum and native plant research targeted to specific needs. For further information on HPI, click [here](#).

NAWG Names Dana Peterson as CEO

The National Association of Wheat Growers has named Dana Peterson, a long-time staffer at Kansas Wheat, as its new chief executive officer, succeeding Daren Coppock. Dana, a Council member, has been the policy and membership specialist at Kansas Wheat since 2001. She earned her bachelor's master's degrees in agricultural economics from Kansas State University. Click [here](#) for further information.

Tatge Named PIPELINE Innovator of the Year

Jason Tatge, CEO, Farms Technology, LLC, was named the

Shook, Hardy & Bacon Legal Seminar Addresses Key Issues

In what has become an annual tradition for the Council's first meeting of the new year, the Shook Hardy and Bacon law firm hosted the group with a luncheon program offering a preview of trends that could affect the industry over the coming 12 months.



Key discussion points were:

- Walmart's Katherine Jennrich said the company's goals are to have 100 percent of its energy requirement supplied from renewable sources, to create zero waste, and to sell products that sustain resources and the environment.
- Monsanto's John Nelson discussed the firm's Sustainable Yield Initiative and its goals to produce more, conserve more and improve farmers' lives.
- Steve Lightstone, CC Capital Advisors, said it appears the recession may have bottomed-out. He said there is ample liquidity that is not being tapped.
- EPA's Karen Flournoy outlined the Agency's priorities, which include protecting America's waters, assuring safety of chemicals, and taking action on climate change.
- SHB attorneys covered key developments in litigation affecting agriculture and the impact of activists on the future of animal ownership. There seem to be elements of the absurd affecting aspects of the animal rights movement. SHB Partner Phil Goldberg referenced an article from the Dec. 22, 2006 *Providence Journal* which reported that Wayne Pacelle, head of the Humane Society of the United States told an animal rights conference:

There is very little difference between humans and other animals - that no one should own animals in general just as no one should own other humans, that Congress should pass animal-guardianship laws to replace our animal-ownership laws.

View the entire article by [Dennis McLaughlin](#) on this important session by clicking [here](#).

PIPELINE 2009 Innovator of the Year. PIPELINE is a nationally recognized technology entrepreneur fellowship program founded by the Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation (KTEC). The award followed a competition that included a refined business plan, a pitch to an expert panel and a score carried over from performance during the technology fellowship year. Tatge, a Council member, founded the firm in 2001, following stints as a commodity trader with The Scoular Company and The Pillsbury Company. Farms Technology offers completely automated marketing tools for originating grain. Pioneer Hi-Bred International recently took an equity stake in the firm.

Mark Vail to Lead National Association of Farm Broadcasting

The National Association of Farm Broadcasting has named Mark Vail as its new executive director. Vail will begin on March 1, 2010. Vail brings with him 34 years of experience in the broadcast arena, encompassing a variety of positions including farm broadcaster, general manager and director of operations.

"I'm very excited to have Mark on board as our executive director," said Greg Akagi, NAFB president. "Mark has truly done it all for NAFB, and his knowledge and experience will give the organization a strong voice for many years to come." For the past 19 years Vail has worked for Eagle Communications, Hays, Kan., in various capacities, during which he was executive producer and co-creator of the national ag show AgriTalk. Since 1998, he has served as vice president of radio for the employee-owned company. Click [here](#) for further information.

K-State Names Cholik to Head Foundation



Fred A. Cholik, dean of the Kansas State College of Agriculture, has been named president and chief executive officer of the KSU Foundation in Manhattan effective February 4. Dr. Cholik has been dean of the College of Agriculture since August 2004. The mission of the KSU Foundation is to provide philanthropic resources to support K-State's mission of research, teaching, extension, and service.

2010 Officers & Directors

Elvin Hollon
Chairman
Dairy Farmers of America, Inc.

Diane Olson
Vice Chair
Missouri Farm Bureau

Russ Weathers
Vice Chair

Western Farm Show Set for Feb. 19-21



The Western Farm Show, the Midwest's premier indoor farm show, will be held February 19-21 at the American Royal Complex in Kansas City. Jeff Flora, CEO of the SouthWestern Association, the sponsor of the farm show says

guests will find the latest in farm and livestock equipment and resources ranging from large farm equipment, implements and other products for full-time traditional farmers to compact tractors and equipment designed for part-time lifestyle farmers. The Farm Show, now in its 50th year, attracts over 500 exhibitors and 20,000 guests bringing a significant economic impact to Kansas City. Click [here](#) for further information.

The SouthWestern Association will make a limited number of tickets available to the Western Farm Show for Council members. E-mail your requests to Erica Venancio at erica.venancio@agbizkc.com.

KC Fed Plans June Symposium on Ag Finance Issues

The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City is planning a regional economic symposium for June 8-9, 2010, on "Farming, Finance and the Global Marketplace." Jason Henderson, vice president and branch executive for the Fed's Omaha Branch, says the Symposium will bring banking and business leaders, government officials, and academia together to explore the forces shaping the profitability and structure of the agricultural marketplace in the 21st century. To request registration materials, e-mail your request to: 2010agsymposium@kcfrc.org.

Missouri's Farmers Offer Free Groceries

Whoever said there's no such thing as a free lunch has never met Missouri's Farmers! In fact, they will be offering the chance for all Missouri residents to win free groceries for breakfast, lunch, and dinner - for an entire year! Missouri residents are able to register for two grand prizes of "Free Groceries for a Year" courtesy of Missouri's farmers at www.FarmersFeedUS.org. Upon visiting the site, consumers will be able to register by meeting a Missouri farmer and learning how they produce safe, nutritious and affordable food. Consumers can register with each of the five feature farmers daily through April 11, the end of the 90-day program.



Agriculture Future of America

Bill Brooks
Secretary/Treasurer
Downes-O'Neill/FCStone, LLC

2010 Board of Directors

Cliff Becker
Vance Publishing Corp., food360

Bruce Brinkmeyer
Bayer Animal Health

Wyatt Brummer
The Scoular Company

Frank Bryant
SES, Inc.

Tim Daugherty
Strategic Concepts

Jim Gray
Heartland Plant Innovation Center

Mike Johannig
John Deere

J.J. Jones
Kansas Dept. of Commerce

Leslie Kaufman
Kansas Cooperative Council

Damon New
First State Bank & Trust

Don Nikodim
Missouri Pork Association

Nancy Robinson
Livestock Marketing Association

John Shostak
Kansas Farm Bureau

Amber Spafford
Osborn Barr Communications

Hot Topics in Agribusiness & Food Safety

Shook Hardy and Bacon is offering a CLE webcast on Feb. 8 focused on agribusiness litigation developments and new regulatory paradigms. Topics include: What's New in Food-Product Regulation; Supply Chain Management -- A Practical Approach; and A Carbon-Constrained Economy - Effects on Agricultural and Manufacturing Operations. For more information, contact Tamy Brown at tnbrown@shb.com.

Positions Available

President of RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment)® -- RISE is the national trade association based in Washington, DC, representing manufacturers, formulators, distributors and other industry leaders involved with speciality (non-agricultural) pesticide and fertilizer products used by professionals and consumers. The incumbent, Allen James, has announced his retirement and the position will be filled by June 1, 2010. A full position description and search specifications are available at: www.RISEJOB.org/PresidentSearch/PositionDescription.

Vice President - Knowledge Exchange -- This position will lead the formation and execution of a new strategic area for a successful financial services company in the Denver area. The successful candidate must have experience in food and agribusiness industry research and analysis with a sound grasp of US and Global food and agribusiness related markets. This role will work with Executive Management and Centers of Excellence to maximize exchange of strategic industry and marketplace information. Strong executive presence with superior oral and written communication and public speaking/presentation skill are needed. Master's degree in Business Administration, Agribusiness Management, Finance or related field. Contact Tamara Garbers at 303-256-6991 or email tamara@zenithsourcing.com for confidential consideration. Full job description can be viewed at www.zenithsourcing.com.

P.O. Box 26426 • Kansas City, MO 64196
Tel: 816-628-1231 • Fax: 816-628-1905
agribusinesscouncilofkc.com

Steve Taylor
*Missouri Agribusiness
Assoc.*

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

Bob Petersen
*Petersen Consulting
Services*

The Agricultural Business Council of Kansas City thanks Dennis McLaughlin, McLaughlin Writers Group, for contributing content for this newsletter. Erica Venancio handles the formatting.