



## Deeds of Faith

Glenn Brunkow, Kansas Farm Bureau President

Let me introduce myself, I am Glenn Brunkow, and the president of Kansas Farm Bureau. I am a farmer, stockman from Pottawatomie County. Most importantly I am Jennifer's husband and Isaac and Tatum's dad. I am also the fifth generation to farm the ground my family bought in the 1890s. We raise cattle and sheep and grow corn, soybeans and hay. All I have ever wanted to be is a farmer, and I am living my dream.

Agriculture is my passion, and I can think of no better way to represent agriculture than to lead Kansas Farm Bureau. I started my Farm Bureau journey in 1999 as a member of the Pottawatomie County Farm Bureau board. Jennifer and I then had the opportunity to be members of the Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee first at the state level and then with the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF).

That experience and my experience with AFBF's Partners in Advocacy Leadership class ignited my interest and love for Kansas Farm Bureau and the grassroots nature of our organization. The success of Kansas Farm Bureau starts with our county level leadership, which is what gives us our power and influence. It is not about those of us in Manhattan; the most important people are each one of you.

I am proud of the legacy of Kansas Farm Bureau, but I am even more excited about the future. My dream is to grow our

organization, make it stronger and hand it off to the next generation of leaders as the most influential organization in Kansas. I promise that with every decision I make, I will do so with the best interest of each county and, ultimately, each member in mind.

Over the next few months, I plan to meet as many of you as I possibly can. Please know I value each member's opinion and look forward to hearing from you. My door is always open.

I am incredibly honored and humbled to serve as your president, and I would be remiss if I did not also thank our past president, Joe Newland. It was a blessing to work alongside him for the past two and a half years, and I thank him for his leadership and mentorship along the way. I have big boots to fill.

I just want to end by thanking each of you for allowing me the honor of serving you. I do not take this job lightly, and I will do my best to live up to your expectations. I know times are tough now, but I have faith in the bright future of agriculture and Kansas Farm Bureau, together we will weather the storm and come out better on the other side. In the words of the FFA creed, "I believe in the future of farming, with a faith born not of words but of deeds."

"Insight" is a weekly column published by Kansas Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm organization whose mission is to strengthen agriculture and the lives of Kansans through advocacy, education and service.

# K-STATE EXTENSION

## Golden Prairie District Horticulture Notes

Kansans may be surprised to learn that we are one of, if not the only state in the lower 48, without a native pine species! While Kansas is home to many native tree species, our prairie ecosystems clearly weren't conducive to hosting (without human intervention) one of the nearly 50 pine species native throughout the US. A few pine species, however, are somewhat adapted to our growing conditions and have since been widely planted for ornamental, windbreak, or conservation purposes. Austrian (Pinus nigra), ponderosa (Pinus ponderosa), and Scots (Pinus sylvestris) can all be found growing throughout much of the state, albeit with periodic signs of environmental stress or even impacts from certain plant diseases. Recognizing symptoms and adopting proper care practices can help reduce stress and sustain pine plantings in our area.

If a pine tree is showing signs of decline or stress, such as yellowing or browning needles or some branch dieback, disease shouldn't necessarily be the first culprit. Environmental stress is by far the more common cause of pine tree decline in western Kansas. Harsh temperatures, strong winds, and extreme fluctuations in soil moisture create challenging growing

conditions. Pines are susceptible to drought stress year-round, including the winter months. If droughty conditions are persistent, it is very important to provide supplemental irrigation to pine plantings to prevent stress. While environmental stress is nearly always associated with pine tree decline, a few diseases occur in Kansas and can occasionally be problematic. Pine tip blight, Dothistroma needle blight, and pine wilt are present throughout the state and can have detrimental effects on trees. Each pine species varies in its susceptibility to each disease. Pine tip blight is probably the most observed in western Kansas, affecting Austrian, ponderosa, and Scots pines. Tip blight is most severe on mature trees (20 years or older) and isn't known to kill trees rapidly; rather, it causes gradual shoot dieback. Symptoms first appear in late May or early June, with the newly developing shoots (candles) failing to grow and appearing stunted and off-color (yellow or tan). Dothistroma needle blight affects Austrian and ponderosa pines, while Scots are considered resistant. Needle blight appears in late summer or early fall, with diseased needles developing dark green bands or scattered

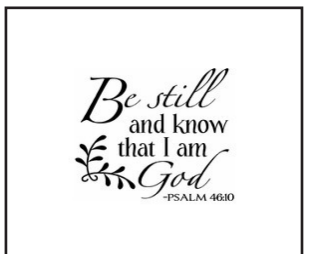
yellow/tan spots. Spots often enlarge and become red bands. Fungal species cause both diseases and can be prevented/reduced by providing adequate air circulation through proper plant placement, plant spacing, and pruning. Fungicide applications may be necessary in certain years or in high-value plantings. Pine wilt is a very serious disease of pines, with Scots pines being especially susceptible, while Austrian pines can also be hosts. The disease is caused by the pinewood nematode, which is spread from tree to tree by the pine sawyer beetle. Pine wilt is common in the eastern two-thirds of the state but is gradually spreading west through the natural movement of the pine sawyer beetle. Symptoms typically appear in the fall, as trees wilt and die over a short period (several weeks to a few months). Needles may turn gray-green, then yellow and brown. Discoloration occurs branch by branch or sometimes the entire tree at once. The most important step to preventing the spread of pine wilt is through sanitation. Dead pine trees should be cut to the ground, not leaving a stump. The wood should be chipped or burned immediately to destroy the beetles and the nematodes. Homeowners should be aware that fungal species

are responsible for most plant diseases, many of which require high humidity/precipitation at certain times of year to cause infection. As one might expect, the western Kansas climate does not consistently provide ideal conditions for many of these plant pathogens, and as a result, much lower disease pressure is observed in this part of the state. In pines, however, we do occasionally see some of the diseases mentioned above. Providing plants with adequate conditions and care (planting site, spacing, proper watering/fertilizing, and mulching) can help to reduce plant environmental stress and disease.

For more information, reach out to the K-State Extension Golden Prairie District offices! (785) 743-6361

For more resources about pine diseases in Kansas: K-State Extension - Pine Diseases in Kansas

[https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/pine-diseases-in-kansas-tip-blight-dothistroma-needle-blight-and-pine-wilt\\_L722.pdf](https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/pine-diseases-in-kansas-tip-blight-dothistroma-needle-blight-and-pine-wilt_L722.pdf)



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**Vice-President of Credit Position**

Farm Credit of Western Kansas has grown and is now accepting applications for a new team member. This position requires a four-year college degree in Agriculture, Business, Accounting, Economics, or related field. A minimum of 5-7-years agriculture lending, financial statement analysis, accounting or equivalent combination of education and experience is preferred. The successful applicant will have an understanding of agriculture production in Northwest Kansas and will display strong communication, marketing and computer skills. Salary to be determined based upon qualifications, with benefit package provided. To apply, submit a letter of application and resume to Farm Credit of Western Kansas, PO Box 667, Colby, KS 67701 attention Jessica Vaughn or email to jessica.vaughn@fcwk.com. Applications are accepted until the position is filled. EEO/AA/Minorities/Female/Veteran/Disability.

## Food for Peace Program Highlighted During Kansas Ag Roundtable

Kansas Wheat and U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) helped welcome Luke J. Lindberg, USDA Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, U.S. Representative Tracey Mann (KS-01), and U.S. Senator Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) to the Kansas Wheat Innovation Center on May 27 for a roundtable discussion with agricultural stakeholders on trade negotiations and agreements, USDA administration of the Food for Peace program and other top-of-mind issues.

"We were excited to have Under Secretary Lindberg, Senator Moran and Congressman Mann visit the Kansas Wheat Innovation Center for an opportunity to talk about the importance of trade with leaders from Kansas commodities," said Justin Gilpin, Kansas Wheat CEO. The Under Secretary has a unique understanding of why producers need to be able to sell our products around the world to consistent buyers, especially in these times when there's so much volatility and geopolitical uncertainty."

In addition to the global food security discussion, the delegation toured the Hal Ross Flour Mill, the IGP Institute and the Kansas Wheat Innovation Center. Throughout the day, the delegation discussed how the programs at these facilities reaffirm to the world that the United

States is not just a seller of grain, but a dedicated partner in global food security.

"The Big First District is home to farmers, ranchers, producers, researchers, and agricultural leaders who help feed, fuel, and clothe the world," said Rep. Mann in a release. "I was grateful to host Under Secretary Lindberg in the Big First today to show him firsthand how Kansas State University and our hardworking producers are strengthening America's food supply and expanding our ability to meet the needs of a hungry world. Food security is national security, and Kansas producers are at the center of making sure American-grown commodities remain at the heart of our global food aid programs like Food for Peace."

Global food aid programs were a highlight of the day's discussions, particularly the shift of the administration of the Food for Peace program to the USDA. Earlier to this year, USDA announced the award of 30,000 metric tons (MT) (1.1 million bushels) for emergency feeding programs under the Food for Peace program. The wheat is destined for emergency feeding programs in East Africa, which will be delivered by the World Food Program. Shipment is expected to take place this summer along with other commodities, including

rice and sorghum.

"The delegation's visit to Kansas is well timed, just ahead of the first trains set to load for a Food for Peace shipment from Kansas next month," said Dalton Henry, USW vice president of policy and communications. "Farmers take tremendous pride in helping to feed the world. We are excited to see the deployment of Food for Peace program resources under the USDA's administration, especially at a time of growing global hunger."

Following their Manhattan visits, Rep. Mann and Under Secretary Lindberg toured the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and ADM Milling in Abilene. Their final stop was the wheat farm of Greg Wilson, a Dickinson County farmer who represents the 70th District in the Kansas House of Representatives.

Wheat farmers have been champions of U.S. food aid assistance since before today's programs came into existence. Food for Peace began with an idea from Cheyenne County farmer Peter O'Brien, whose proposal to use surplus American commodities to feed hungry nations was adopted by the Kansas Farm Bureau, sponsored in Congress by Kansas Senator Andy Schoepel, and signed into law by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on July 10, 1954.

More than 70 years later, U.S.-grown wheat has remained an important commodity for food assistance, often representing half of the bulk in-kind aid and routinely using around one million metric tons of U.S. wheat annually.

"Kansas is at the epicenter of feeding the world," Under Secretary Lindberg said. "Not only is it an exporting powerhouse for beef, wheat, corn, soybeans, sorghum, and other agricultural products that the world has come to enjoy; it's also the home to the American generosity of the global food security movement. I am thankful to Representative Mann and Senator Moran for showcasing the best of Kansas to me this week."

