

## INSIDE

Chairman’s Notes..... 2  
 From the Director ..... 3  
 Meet Charles Gabehart..... 3  
 Legislative Day Recap ..... 4  
 Calendar ..... 6

## Our Mission

The Kansas Cooperative Council exists to promote, support and advance the interests, business success and understanding of agricultural, utility, credit and consumer cooperatives and their members through legislation and regulatory efforts, education and public relations.

Co-op News is published four times a year by the Kansas Cooperative Council for its members and constituents.

**Kansas Cooperative Council**  
 816 S.W. Tyler St., Ste. 300  
 Topeka, KS 66612  
 888.603.2667  
 Fax: 785.233.1038  
 www.kansasco-op.coop



## Dave Andra, Kent Stamper Inducted into Hall of Fame

Dave Andra of Goddard and Kent Stamper of Plainville were inducted into the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame in March in conjunction with the Kansas Cooperative Council annual meeting in Hutchinson.

### Dave Andra

Andra’s wife, Jo Anne, accepted the award on behalf of her husband, who passed away in 2003.

Andra began his career in 1961 as the Conway Springs cooperative bookkeeper and became co-op manager six years later. In 1969 he joined the Wichita Bank for Cooperatives, working with regional co-ops and then serving as vice president of the bank’s Credit Division.

He was named president of the Wichita Bank for Cooperatives in 1984. Andra served on national committees in the Farm Credit System and promoted legislative action for cooperatives. He also was involved in restructuring the Farm Credit System during the 1980s farm crisis.

Andra returned to co-op management in 1987 at Danville and was serving as president of the Kansas Cooperative Council prior to his death.



**Celebrating the 2008 Hall of Fame: (Top) Bette, Kent and Kevin Stamper. Jo Anne Andra (above center) and family.**

### Kent Stamper

Stamper has served on the local board of Midland Marketing in Hays for almost thirty years. During much of that time, he was vice president or president. He also has served on the national boards of Union Equity and Farmland Industries.

He has spoken at annual statewide cooperative council meetings in Texas, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Colorado. Stamper also has represented the state of Kansas, farmers and cooperatives in town-hall meetings, in the halls of Washington, D.C., and with dignitaries in foreign countries.

He helped design the Kansas Cooperative Council’s Director Development Program and currently serves on our education committee.

**KANSAS COOPERATIVE COUNCIL  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Steve Magette, Chairman  
Dodge City Co-op  
Dodge City, Kansas

Dave Studebaker, Vice Chairman  
Delphos Cooperative Assn.  
Delphos, Kansas

Dr. David Barton  
Arthur Capper Cooperative Center –  
Kansas State University  
Manhattan, Kansas

Marla Marsh  
Kansas Credit Union Assn.  
Wichita, Kansas

Mike Pesek  
KFSA  
Hutchinson, Kansas

Charles Gabehart  
Nemaha County Co-op Assn.  
Seneca, Kansas

Gary Friesen  
Scott Co-op Assn.  
Scott City, Kansas

Deb Miller  
Farmers Union Mercantile  
& Shipping Assn.  
Stockton, Kansas

Ed Taylor  
Golden Valley, Inc.  
Rozel, Kansas

Dan Cashier  
Anthony Farmers Co-op Elevator  
Anthony, Kansas

Kevin Kelly  
Two Rivers Consumers Co-op  
Arkansas City, Kansas

Steve Eck  
CHS/LOL  
Windom, Kansas

Dennis Blick  
CoBank  
Wichita, Kansas

Alan Jaax  
Farm Credit Services  
Wichita, Kansas

Stuart Lowry  
Kansas Electric Co-ops, Inc.  
Topeka, Kansas

*Notes from the Chairman*

## Strong Optimism for Year Ahead



### By Steve Magette

I am pleased to be writing this message to the members of the Kansas Cooperative Council. It is

very humbling to have been selected as chairman of this special organization.

The annual meeting held in mid-March was a testament to the presence of the cooperative movement in Kansas, very much like it must have been many decades ago as our fathers and grandfathers were organizing cooperatives to be an extension of their own farming operations. This year I felt that there was a strong element of optimism among the attendees and favorable crop expectations in most areas of the state. I also commonly heard talk of record prices for ag commodities.

The co-op council honored two individuals this year who, I believe, exemplify the true meaning of cooperation. **Dave Andra** and **Kent Stamper** were inducted into the Kansas Cooperative Hall of Fame. These men truly have had the cooperative spirit and have given so much for the development and growth of that spirit in Kansas.

I wish to thank the retiring directors who have served the KCC: **Marvin Lynch** from Piqua, **Frank Riedl** from Great Bend and **Alan Doubrava** from Ellsworth. Thank you for your dedication and years of service to the co-op council.

I would like to welcome the new board members who were elected in March at the annual meeting: **Charles Gabehart** from Seneca, **Ed Taylor** from Rozel and **Kevin Kelly** of Arkansas City.

**Leslie Kaufman**, our executive director, has given the board members a great deal of insight into the political workings at the Statehouse, and does a marvelous job of being a voice for cooperatives and agriculture in Topeka. Thank you, Leslie, for keeping cooperative and rural issues before our legislators.

We are now in the fourth year of our management agreement with KFSA. We are very pleased with the support services that Mike Pesek and his staff at KFSA are providing to the co-op council. It is refreshing to have these two organizations work together to provide support to our members.

If any member would like to have a KCC ambassador present at your annual meeting (or any meeting) to give a brief overview of the KCC to your members, please contact me or the staff at KCC.



*At a board meeting in Hutchinson in March, Executive Director Leslie Kaufman presented Marvin Lynch, retiring board chairman, with an engraved clock for his years of service to the Kansas Cooperative Council.*

## New Web Site Features Members-Only Section, Login



**By Leslie Kaufman**

We have just recently held our 2008 KCC Annual Meeting. Once again, the business session ran smoothly and new leaders have joined the board of directors. We also commemorated the achievements of two new members of the Kansas Co-op Hall of Fame with

the induction of **Dave Andra** and **Kent Stamper**.

The past year has been a productive and good year for the KCC with many programming and advocacy accomplishments. This success is due to the effective leadership of the KCC board, the volunteer efforts of members and friends, and the financial and administrative support from the team at KFSA. To all of you, thank you for your efforts.

The Council continues to improve on ways we connect with our members and those outside the organization. We've

made improvements in our communications tools with an updated look for the quarterly newsletter. A new Web site design debuted at our annual meeting.

The site has a fresh new look but, more importantly, we have improved its function, content and navigation. We encourage you to visit [www.kansasco-op.coop](http://www.kansasco-op.coop) frequently for program offerings and updates on KCC legislative efforts.

One new feature is a members-only section that requires a password. We will send your individual co-op user ID and password in the letter that acknowledges payment of your dues. We are moving to this system to ensure that items posted under the members-only section are available only to current dues-paying members.

This will be used as a means of protecting your investment in the KCC and increasing the value of belonging to the Council. We do need your help in ensuring that the employees within your co-op and your individual local board members are informed of the login when you receive it.

## KCC Board Director Spotlight: Charles Gabehart, Nemaha County Co-op Assn.



Charles Gabehart's career has spanned thirty years and three states. In the process, he has built a reputation for turning things around and has established an extensive network. "If I don't know something," he says, "I have a network of people to contact."

Gabehart was raised in Buhler, Kan., graduated with a business degree

from Hutchinson Community College in 1980, and entered the grain industry shortly after—with no ag background whatsoever.

He answered an ad for a wheat buyer in Arkansas City, where ADM was looking for someone to learn everything from the ground up. Over the next decade he would begin to master the art of blending wheat. He also would deal with big-name customers such as Campbell's Soup.

His work took him to CHS in Lincoln, Neb., where he helped merchandise grain and did hedging for elevators and

co-ops. In Seward, Neb., he helped the Blue Valley Co-op maintain profitability to facilitate a merger with York Co-op.

As a grain department manager in Chappell, he helped increase volumes so they could merge with the co-op in Kimball, Neb. At the Aurora Co-op in Nebraska, Gabehart was vice president of grain origination, and developed programs and educational seminars for producers.

Gabehart went on to work in Minden, Neb., as a performance marketing leader for Cargill. Then, in eight months' time, as general manager he helped turn the Max, N.D., co-op around. There he saw flax, canola, spring and winter wheat, barley, mustard, and even buckwheat being raised.

The Nemaha County Co-op was in good shape, he says, when he arrived three years ago as general manager. The position was a good fit for Gabehart—one part general manager, one part grain merchandiser. "Sixty percent of our sales is grain, so it's important we make sure things are going well on the grain side," he says. "I couldn't do what I do, however, without our office staff."

Gabehart's eight children range in age from 5 to 26. The eldest members of the clan include an architect in

*(continued on back page)*

# Legislative Day Gives Members Direct Access to Congress



**M**ore than eighty co-op council members and state legislators gathered in Topeka on a crisp January day to discuss current cooperative issues.

The 2008 Legislative Day began at the Maner Conference Center with a briefing from Executive Director Leslie Kaufman. She reviewed the council's position on several key legislative issues before the group rode on a bus together to the Capitol building.

The afternoon was split between scheduled meetings, where members heard from key officials, and informal opportunities to visit the legislative offices and watch the action in committees and on the Senate floor. For instance, when the Senate dismissed for the day, a group from Andale and Nickerson walked down a flight of stairs to catch their legislators as they left the chambers. There, they visited one on one with **Sens. Phil Journey (R-Haysville)** and **Carolyn McGinn, (R-Sedgwick)**.

The day also provided a chance to see both chambers' beautifully restored interiors, including four ceiling murals in the House.

The co-op council arranged for members to hear briefings from **House Speaker Melvin Neufeld** and **House Minority Leader Dennis McKinney**. **Secretary of Transportation Deb Miller** talked about KDOT and highway projects. **Senate President Stephen Morris** and



**Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley** shared their thoughts on the Holcomb coal plant and the status on immigration legislation.

The group returned to the Maner Conference Center and received their legislators as guests for a reception and dinner. We wonder: Can you put a price on the opportunity to sit down and talk with your elected official while dining at a table of eight?

We encourage you to attend Legislative Day next year, and every year. We can think of no better way for our members to receive regular, direct access to their representatives and discuss current issues that are important to the cooperative system's success.

This event also allows us to show our strength in numbers and helps reinforce the advocacy efforts conducted on your behalf by your association director.



**KANSAS COOPERATIVE COUNCIL**  
*2008 Legislative Dinner Sponsors*





**Land O'Lakes, Inc.**  
 CoBank





PO Box 1747  
Hutchinson, KS 67504  
Leslie Kaufman, Executive Director

## **Gabehart, from p. 3**

Glenwood Springs, Colo., an advertising professional in Lincoln, and an education major at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Along the way, he's participated in Farmland Industries' Leadership Benchmark Training Series and Cenex Harvest States' leadership programs. He's also attended all four of the co-op council's Director Development Program training sessions in Manhattan. "I think it's important for managers to be involved in meetings like that with their directors, so they can appreciate each others' perspectives."

He says he thinks people need to hear the cooperative story so they can better understand how co-ops work, what they mean to their members, and how the money goes back to local people and helps build assets that serve them. "Leslie (Kaufman) does a great job of representing the co-op system. I want to do everything we can to support her and the co-op council, so the legislators can hear our voice."

***DUES REMINDER: If you haven't already done so, please send your dues payment to our office ASAP to ensure that you remain on our membership roster and receive benefits of membership for the coming year. Thank you!***

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### April

21-25

KFSA's Bin Entry Rescue Training, Garden City

25-26

Kansas Credit Union Assn. Annual Meeting, Wichita

28-May 2

KFSA's Bin Entry Rescue Training, Hutchinson

April 30

Legislative Veto Session Begins, Topeka

### June

6

Western KS Managers Golf Tournament, Garden City

10-12

NCFC Conference, Washington, D.C.

### July

14

KCC Education Committee Meeting, Hutchinson

15

KCC Board Meeting, Hutchinson

### Aug.

4-6

NSAC National Convention, St. Louis

11

Cranor Memorial Golf Tournament, Dodge City

### Sept.

5-14

Kansas State Fair, Hutchinson