

**NEXT AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL EVENT, AgriNXT, SLATED FOR DECEMBER**

There is a new date to place on your calendars this winter. Agri-Business Council of Wichita (ABCW) members, local leaders and anyone else interested in the scope of agriculture's impact on their business should make plans to attend AgriNXT, set for Dec. 8-9 at the Hyatt Regency Wichita.

The theme of the two-day conference is to discuss the opportunities and challenges of the global economy on the agriculture industry. The event will feature speakers on several major areas of importance including aerospace, fuel, nutrition, the global food supply and mechanization. Chris Trumble, ABCW chair, says attendees will also hear from politicians and panels of experts to ensure a wide range of speakers and information is given to the anticipated 200+ crowd.

In 2008, the ABCW hosted BioNXT, its first successful event that focused on bioscience including animal and human health, biotechnology and biofuels.

Now, Trumble says, is the time for ABCW members to volunteer to make this year's AgriNXT conference happen. Members can help contact speakers, handle registration and sessions tasks, organize the networking events and secure sponsorships for meals and scholarships."

To volunteer for AgriNXT, contact Trumble at [ctrumble1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ctrumble1@sbcglobal.net). —

**MEMBER PROFILE: JESSE MCCURRY**

Networking is the main reason Jesse McCurry joined the Agri-Business Council of Wichita (ABCW). And this should come as no surprise since he is a business development specialist for the city's accounting and consulting firm, Kennedy and Coe, LLC.



McCurry

He says when he moved to Wichita in 2006, the ABCW offered an immediate way to meet people and learn about emerging trends in agriculture and bioscience, his two main areas of interest.

"My firm had previous involvement with the organization, held a corporate membership and was involved in strategic efforts with the council," McCurry says. "Since Kennedy and Coe has been consistent in support of the council's mission I felt it was important to be involved with the organization's activities."

So for the first year McCurry developed contacts within the organization, attended semi-monthly luncheons to hear from industry speakers and met a few of the ABCW board members. Eventually he was asked to serve on the board and did so as program chair, securing quality speakers for the luncheons that helped him network in the first place.

He was also involved in the development of the ABCW's first major event, the 2008 BioNXT Conference. This, McCurry says, is a highlight of his membership involvement.

"My volunteer effort for BioNXT required helping with securing content, speakers and sponsorships to fund the conference," he says. "The success we had with the conference, with help from KansasBIO and the Kansas World Trade Center, showed the Wichita community what the council could do. It was like our coming out party."

And he's still a big believer in what the ABCW can offer Wichita and the south-central Kansas region. McCurry encourages

**MORAN FOR LUNCH NEXT WEEK, HYATT**

The Council's lunches are its bread and butter. Members can look forward to another great session on July 8 when U.S. Representative Jerry Moran speaks to the lunch crowd. Moran is currently a candidate for the U.S. Senate, a seat Sen. Sam Brownback is vacating due to his self-imposed term limit. Moran has represented the Big First District in Kansas, which includes 69 of the state's 105 counties, for the past 13 years.

The lunch location is 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Wichita. For further details on the July 8 event, contact Jim Mock at [ctrumble1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ctrumble1@sbcglobal.net). —

**DEBRUCE GRAIN EXPANDS ELEVATOR IN WICHITA**

DeBruce Grain, Inc. purchased three flats adjacent to its Wichita elevator. The new addition will have a storage capacity of 7,250,000 bushels, which will expand the total Wichita storage capacity to 29,709,000 bushels.

"The new space will be connected to our existing elevator, returning to its original state with spouts and drags," said Paul DeBruce, chief executive officer of DeBruce Grain, Inc. "We plan to have the first phase finished in late June and look forward to having the entire project completed by the end of August."

Founded in 1978 and based in Kansas City, Mo., DeBruce Grain is a growing \$5 billion organization, currently ranked 56th on the Forbes 500 list of private companies. DeBruce Grain, Inc., serves customers nationwide and in Mexico with more than 40 primary physical plant operations located in the Midwest. Business units include high-speed grain handling facilities, soybean processing, feed manufacturing, fertilizer distribution terminals and retail fertilizer operations, as well as grain, fertilizer and feed ingredient trading groups. —

**EPA DELAYS DECISION ON ETHANOL BLEND**

Against a backdrop of the largest petroleum-related environmental disaster ever, the Environmental Protection Agency is again delaying a decision to boost the percentage of ethanol that can be blended into the domestic gasoline supply.

It could be September or later before a ruling is made on increasing the blend levels to 15-percent ethanol (E15) into the U.S. domestic gasoline supply. Regulators also are considering limits to the size of the current market for enhanced ethanol blends to just vehicles from the 2007 or later model years, rather than what originally was thought to include 2001 and newer vehicles. There is also no word on a pending request to immediately approve the use of 12-percent ethanol blends for all vehicles. —

**SMALL MEAT PROCESSORS CONSIDER COSTS OF NEW FSIS REGULATIONS**

Small and independent meat processors are at significant economic risk due to increased regulatory costs included in a preliminary draft guidance document issued by the Food Safety and Inspection Service, according to the American Farm Bureau Federation. The document spells out new and costly requirements for local meat processors under the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point Systems Validation proposal.

In a letter to FSIS, Farm Bureau stated that many of its members who raise livestock "rely on small and independent meat processors" to process meat they raise for their own consumption. In addition, local meat processors offer farmers and ranchers opportunities to create specialty and value-added products marketed through niche outlets.

Hundreds of small, independent meat processors have expressed concern to AFBF over the last three months regarding the damaging economic consequences of the proposed rule. Increased compliance costs ranged from \$65,000 to approximately \$640,000 per year for those local plants. —

members to get involved because it will keep the organization relevant and maintain the high level of networking opportunities, which made him join in the first place.

"At the end of the day, business is done through relationships," he says. "People buy from people. The council serves an important role for its members to share information, learn about emerging trends and develop contacts that can help down the road. I think the council is in a nascent phase where there is great opportunity for passionate members to help shape its future and direction. What it needs more than anything is energetic people participating and that includes me personally." —