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**Friday, Jan. 27, 2012**

**Issue Concern for Farm Bureau Members:**

**Express your support for LB 884**, the agricultural literacy bill. It would create a task force to further Farm Bureau policy which supports incorporating education about agriculture into the Nebraska curriculum for fourth grade. To contact your senator, click [here](#).

**Farm Bureau Calendar**

**Feb. 9 & 10**

[NEFB Legislative Conference](#)

Embassy Suites, Lincoln

**Feb. 15 & 16**

[Governor's Ag Conference](#)

Kearney

**On Farm Bureau's Blog:**

[Meet Scottsbluff County FB Member Andy Groskopf, farmer and fish trucker.](#)

**NEFB to Obama: End Child Labor Proposal, Raise SPCC Threshold**

Nebraska Farm Bureau's Board of Directors asked President Obama Thursday to implement two changes as he seeks to inject common sense into government regulations and eliminate unneeded rules. In a letter, NEFB President Steve Nelson urged Obama to end the Department of Labor's plan to severely restrict the work children can do on farms and raise the threshold for above-ground fuel storage on farms and ranches, which he said should not be regulated the same as oil refineries under the Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures rule. (link to news release)

**Farm Home Sites Shouldn't Be Compared to Non-Farm Residential Sites**

NEFB testified in support of LB 750 last week. It would amend Nebraska law to state that residential land located within a platted and zoned residential subdivision is not comparable to land that is part of a farm home site for use in assessing property values. The language attempts to assure non-farm residential sites are not used as comparable sales in establishing values on farm home sites. Farm Bureau said farmsteads involved in active farming operations should be appraised similar to other active farmsteads, and not as subdivided residential property.

**Farm Bureau Supports Rural Migration Bill**

Nebraska Farm Bureau offered its support Friday to a bill which encourages individuals to move to rural areas. LB 850 would provide a refundable income tax credit of \$1,500 per year to any individual who establishes residency in a Nebraska county which had a net population loss of 5 percent or more between 2000 and 2010. Farm Bureau noted that new people contribute to the social fabric of rural communities and help broaden the tax base.



Travis & Nancy Anderson, Dawes County, listen to Christensen.

## Young Farmers and Ranchers Conference Underway in McCook

Nebraska Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers Conference, for members up to age 35, is underway in McCook today. It continues through tomorrow and includes tours, leadership workshops, speeches and social activities. About 150 young FB members are attending the conference.



Sen. Mark Christensen gave a legislative update at Friday's luncheon

## FB Board Comments to Revenue Committee on Tax Relief Proposals

The legislature's Revenue Committee has begun to hear testimony on bills to provide various forms of tax relief, including LB 970, Gov. Heineman's tax relief package. It would eliminate the county inheritance tax; reduce individual income tax rates; broaden income tax brackets; and reduce the top corporate income tax rate.

NEFB's board met via conference call this week to discuss tax relief and priorities within Farm Bureau's policy. In comments to the Revenue Committee, the board reiterated Farm Bureau's support and priority interest in finding means to provide property tax relief for farmers and ranchers. It also signaled support for other relief measures back by Farm Bureau policy, such as a sales tax exemption for repair parts for ag machinery and other ag inputs, elimination of the county inheritance tax, and tax incentives for rural economic development.

The NEFB board also noted its continued support for allocating sales tax dollars to enhancing Nebraska's roads infrastructure and its support for allocation of state monies to UNL for a new veterinary diagnostic lab.

## Biochips Should Be Sales Tax-Exempt Like Other Inputs, Farm Bureau Says

Farm Bureau is supporting a sales tax exemption for biochips used in animal or plant genetic testing. LB 830 would exempt from sales tax biochips used to conduct analysis of gene or protein expression, genomic sequencing or protein profiling. NEFB told the Revenue Committee that because biochips are an input into the tests, they should be treated similar to other inputs in a process. Technology such as biochips is vital as agriculture seeks to develop food and products demanded by consumers, Farm Bureau said.

## Feb. 2 Is Deadline To Register for NEFB Legislative Conference

Next Thursday, Feb. 2, is the advance registration deadline for Farm Bureau's 2012 Legislative Conference. If you plan to attend, please register by Feb. 2 to assist FB staff with meal counts and other preparations. You may, however, register on site for the conference, Feb. 9 and 10 at Lincoln's Embassy Suites hotel, which begins Feb. 9 at 10:30 a.m. The agenda includes a Republican Senate Forum and presentations by Jason Henderson, Federal Reserve Bank; Roberto Lenton, UNL Water for Food Institute; Gov. Dave Heinemann; and motivational speaker Matt Rush of the New Mexico Farm Bureau. To learn more and to register, visit [www.nefb.org](http://www.nefb.org)

## **Ag Groups Ask CFTC for Clarity on Implementation of Dodd-Frank Act**

The American Farm Bureau has joined with a coalition of other agricultural and farm groups to send comments to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission outlining concerns about potential impacts of the CFTC implementing the Dodd-Frank Act.

AFBF believes in general that farmers and other agricultural end-users do not need the same level of regulation as the Wall Street financial institutions that Dodd-Frank is intended to cover. It wants CFTC to clarify the specific roles and responsibilities of producers and other agriculture-related end-users to prevent farmers and ranchers from being forced into a one-size-fits-all regulatory approach.

AFBF is particularly concerned that the overly broad definition of “swap dealer” contained in the proposed would include entities Congress did not intend to regulate as swap dealers. For example, if cooperatives are not treated as derivative “end-users,” but rather as “swap dealers,” the resulting increased regulatory costs will curtail significantly their ability to offer farmers and ranchers affordable risk management tools.

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