

## Legislation Introduced to Expand Ag Career Opportunities for Veterans

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS) – ranking member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs – today introduced legislation to codify and expand a program that provides veterans with resources and opportunities to pursue careers in the agriculture industry.

Sen. Moran included a provision in the FY2017 Agriculture Appropriations Act to establish a pilot program through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) – the Food and Agriculture Resilience Program for Military Veterans (AgVets Program) – which has awarded project grants in more than 30 states and the District of Columbia since 2018, offering thousands of transitioning veterans' opportunities in agriculture.

The Colonel Gary LaGrange AgVets Act of 2024 would build on the success of this program through continued training and education for veterans to better understand various farm and ranch business operations.

"Military service instills character and skills in veterans that make them valuable employees across many industries," said Sen. Moran. "Named in honor of retired U.S. Army Colonel Gary LaGrange, who was instrumental in developing the AgVets pilot program, this legislation makes certain the program continues to help veterans enter the agricultural sector and find meaningful careers in farming and ranching."

Ret. Colonel Gary LaGrange implemented one of the first AgVets grants in Manhattan, Kansas. He also testified at a 2016 Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture hearing.

The Colonel Gary LaGrange AgVets Act of 2024 would:

- Provide training and classroom education resources for transitioning veterans to explore career opportunities in production agriculture and understand farm and ranch business operations and management practices;
- Develop or identify curricula that veteran farmers and ranchers can adopt to help manage their enterprises;
- Develop and implement education, workshops, tours and instructor-supervised field experiences;
- Support any additional activities, as identified by the Secretary of Agriculture, to increase the number of veterans pursuing knowledge and skills development in agriculture.

## Mann Votes to Advance Farm Bill Out of Committee

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Representative Tracey Mann (KS-01) voted to advance the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024 out of the House Agriculture Committee. This legislation, which passed in the committee by a vote of 33-21, authorizes farm and nutrition related programs for the next five years. Rep. Mann released the following statement following the vote.

"The Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024 is a fiscally conservative Farm Bill that strengthens the American farm safety net and wisely invests taxpayer dollars," said Rep. Mann. "Since 2018, when the last Farm Bill was signed into law, American farmers, ranchers, agricultural producers, and consumers have navigated record high inflation, labor shortages, and a disrupted supply chain. During our Farm Bill listening sessions, stakeholders and agricultural community members made it crystal clear—they need a Farm Bill to provide them certainty like never before. The Farm, Food, and National Security Act protects crop insurance, invests in trade and research programs, and conducts rigorous oversight to ensure that food and farm policy is properly implemented. I was proud to advance this Farm Bill that works for Kansans and Americans."

During his opening remarks, Rep. Mann shared that America's food and national security depend on a robust, fiscally-conservative Farm Bill, American agricultural producers and consumers deserve it, and Congress must deliver it. Earlier this week, Rep. Mann spoke on the House Floor to discuss the House Agriculture Committee's Farm Bill and its impact on the agricultural community. Over the past year, Rep. Mann has spoken on the floor of the House 28 times to advocate for his priorities in the Farm Bill.

The bill now awaits consideration from the full U.S. House of Representatives.

Rep. Mann represents the Big First District of Kansas which is the nation's third largest agriculture producing district in the country and ranks number one in beef, wheat, and sorghum production. In May 2023, Rep. Mann and House Agriculture Committee Chairman GT Thompson hosted a Farm Bill listening session in Gypsum, Kansas to hear directly from Kansas farmers, ranchers, agricultural producers, and leaders to hear their priorities for the next Farm Bill. The session was attended by 150 people.

(First published in The Sheridan Sentinel May 16, 2024)

IN THE 15<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
DISTRICT COURT OF Sheridan COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF  
Josephine Barnett  
Present Name Case No. SD-2024-CV-00007  
Div. No. \_\_\_\_\_

To Change His/Her Name to:  
Josephine Barnett Munk  
New Name

PURSUANT TO K.S.A. CHAPTER 60

**NOTICE OF HEARING - PUBLICATION**

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL WHO ARE OR MAY BE CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that Josephine Barnett (Petitioner's Full Name), filed a Petition in the above court on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, requesting a judgment and order changing his/her name from Josephine Barnett to Josephine Barnett Munk.

The Petition will be heard in Sheridan County District Court, 925 North Street (Court address), Howe (City), Kansas, on the 5 day of August, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. or p.m.

If you have any objection to the requested name change, you are required to file a responsive pleading on or before July 4th, 2024 (insert date at least 41 days after first publication) in this court or appear at the hearing and object to the requested name change. If you fail to act, judgment and order will be entered upon the Petition as requested by Petitioner.

Josephine Barnett  
Petitioner, Pro Se  
Name (Print): Josephine Barnett  
Address 1: 16228 N. Rd 10 W  
Address 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: Howe, KS 67140  
Telephone Number: 785-473-3091

(Last published in The Sheridan Sentinel May 30, 2024)

## Commission Minutes 5/21/2024

Now on this 21st day of May 2024, the Board of Commissioners, Sheridan County, Kansas met in regular session with Chairman Mike "Buck" Mader presiding. Other members present were Joe Bainter, David Stithem, and County Clerk Heather Bracht.

At 8:00 a.m. Mader called the meeting to order.

Those in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Joe Herskowitz, Road & Bridge Supervisor, came to the table. At 8:00 Mader made a motion to enter into executive session for a period of 10 minutes for the discussion of non-elected personnel. Bainter seconded. Carried 3-0. Present were the Board, Bracht, and Herskowitz. At 8:11, the door opened and Mader made a motion to extend the executive session for a period of 10 minutes. Stithem seconded. Carried 3-0. The door opened at 8:15.

Jennifer Fenner entered the meeting. Mader stated they were in receipt of the email from her pertaining to the disposal fee she was charged at the landfill when a home they own was torn down and taken to the landfill for disposal by the contractor. The Board clarified dumping charges at the landfill.

A bid was received from JT Grader Service for work on 70-90W/50N at a cost of \$4,000. This work would entail pulling shoulders, cleaning ditches, fix drainage, and spread and pack material. Stithem made a motion to approve the bid from JT Grader Service in the amount of \$4,000 seconded by Mader. Carried 3-0.

There was a brief discussion about some other road work which needs finishing work done.

The locate was completed in Tasco last week so that project is ready to be started.

There are a couple of areas that need culverts and a area

that will have gravel put down. Herskowitz stated they plan on working on 40N back east a mile. They plan to build up the road and put gravel on it with possibly culverts in the low bottoms.

The excavator is still being worked on.

Jordan Riley, EMS Director, and Don Koerperich came to the table. Riley stated he was there to discuss the sustainability of the EMS service. There are problems with coverage, especially on the weekends and he has had to cover multiple weekends. Riley distributed information put together pertaining to EMS and different options he has come up with and an estimate of the cost for the various options. The Commissioners made no decision on the information presented. Riley will come back at a later time to continue the discussion and to discuss the 2025 Budget for EMS.

Don Koerperich, Emergency Manager; Shirley Niermeier, Treasurer; and Heather Bracht, County Clerk, came to the table and presented the 2025 Budgets for their departments. There was a brief discussion about each of them.

On a motion by Mader and second by Stithem the May 14, 2024 Minutes were approved as presented. Carried 3-0.

Bainter made a motion to approve the May 17, 2024 Payroll as presented. Stithem seconded. Carried 3-0.

The following payroll was approved:

- General \$89,803.59
  - Road & Bridge \$40,222.24
  - Nox. Weed \$2,304.00
  - Public Transp. \$1,046.50
  - Landfill \$1,981.13
- At 10:57 a.m. with no further business, Stithem made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bainter. Carried 3-0. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Room.

Attest: Heather Bracht, County Clerk, Mike "Buck" Mader, Chairman

## Summer EBT Program to Improve Food Access for Kids

Topeka – The Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) is launching Summer EBT, a new program to help eligible families offset some of the costs of buying food for their school-aged children over summer break. Summer EBT, also known as SUN Bucks in other states, is a partnership between DCF and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. The program provides families with \$120 for each eligible school-aged child to buy groceries.

Summer EBT benefits will begin rolling out in mid to late July. For most families, Summer EBT will automatically be added to an existing household's Kansas Benefits Card (also known as an EBT card) or loaded onto a Kansas Benefits Card and mailed to the home. Families that don't receive Summer EBT benefits but believe they qualify must apply between August 12 and September 11, 2024, through the DCF online self-service portal, dcfapp.kees.ks.gov. Children who receive Summer EBT can still participate in other summer meal programs that may be available in their community.

### Eligibility:

- Children may be eligible for the program if:
  - The child is school-aged (7-17 years old) and received food assistance, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and/or foster care benefits at any point during the school year.
  - OR
  - The child attends a Kansas school that offers the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Program, and the household

income meets the requirements for free or reduced-price school meals at any point during the school year.

### Enrollment:

By the end of July 2024, benefits will be issued automatically to eligible children whom DCF can identify in partnership with the Kansas Department of Education. Any child(ren) who did not receive benefits by the end of July 2024 may apply for Summer EBT benefits through the online self-service portal, dcfapp.kees.ks.gov. Online applications for Summer EBT will be accepted from August 12 through September 11, 2024.

Learn more about the Summer EBT program at dcf.ks.gov.

## Kansas Milk Production

**Manhattan** - Milk production in Kansas during April 2024 totaled 346 million pounds, down 4% from April 2023, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The average number of milk cows was 174,000 head, 6,000 head less than April 2023. Milk production per cow averaged 1,990 pounds.

## Kansas Crop Progress and Condition

**Manhattan** - For the week ending May 19, 2024, there were 4.6 days suitable for fieldwork, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Topsoil moisture supplies rated 17% very short, 22% short, 51% adequate, and 10% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 20% very short, 29% short, 47% adequate, and 4% surplus.

Field Crops Report: Winter wheat condition rated 11% very poor, 20% poor, 36% fair, 30% good, and 3% excellent. Winter wheat headed was 90%, well ahead of 68% for both last year and the five-year average. Coloring was 24%.

Corn condition rated 2% very poor, 11% poor, 29% fair, 53% good, and 5% excellent. Corn planted was 74%, ahead of 68% last year and 69% average. Emerged was 53%, near 49% last year, and ahead of 44% average.

Soybeans planted was 43%, behind 51% last year, but near 39% average. Emerged was 23%, near 27% last year, but ahead of 18% average.

Sorghum planted was 13%, near 11% last year, and ahead of 8% average.

Cotton planted was 38%, near 39% last year and 37% average.

Sunflowers planted was 6%, near 2% last year and 8% average.

Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range conditions rated 7% very poor, 15% poor, 36% fair, 36% good, and 6% excellent.

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Derek Pridey, DVM  
Brandi Taul, DVM  
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