

Committee on Agriculture Testimony

Agricultural producers in Kansas face many challenges that effect their operation. Among those are the ever increasing costs of fuel and fertilizer. When most other businesses are faced with increases in production costs, those costs are passed on to the consumer. Farmers pay high prices for necessary inputs to grow food and fiber and usually have to sell their produce at whatever price is offered. They do not have the luxury of passing increased costs associated with production on to the consumer. As a result, their operation is always between a rock and a hard place.

Within the last year, farmers have had a significant increase in the price of grain that they sell but when you consider the increase in production costs, net income doesn't change very much. When environmental conditions are such that production is high, then the supply and demand equation takes effect and market prices are low. When environmental conditions are not good and production is low, then grain prices are high but the problem with that is that there isn't much to sell.

Most farmers operate a business that barley hangs on from one year to the next and they exist in that manner year in and year out. And when he or she gets too old to farm and decides to pass the operation on to the next generation, then the next generation starts out by trying to dig their way out of a hole that was created when they inherited the farm.

Farmers are among the most creative and most productive entrepreneurs in the country. But farming is a never ending battle, it's a battle that you can fight for a while but there comes a time when you do get tire of fighting.

I admit that today, I have barely etched a mark when it comes to identifying the challenges faced by agriculture producers in Kansas but you have already heard from others and you will hear more from those that follow.

In closing, let me say that your being here today as Representatives of the Agricultural Subcommittee attests to your good will and your good intentions and for that, I thank you.

Bill Miller

Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Information Required From Non-governmental Witnesses

House rules require non-governmental witnesses to provide their resume or biographical sketch prior to testifying. If you do not have a resume or biographical sketch available, please complete this form.

1. Name: Bill Miller
2. Business Address: 2832 Ellis Road
Princeton, KS 66078
3. Business Phone Number: 785-241-0241
4. Organization you represent: Franklin County Farm Bureau Association
5. Please list any occupational, employment, or work-related experience you have which add to your qualification to provide testimony before the Committee:
Own cattle ranch, raise beef
cattle & small amount of
row crops.
6. Please list any special training, education, or professional experience you have which add to your qualifications to provide testimony before the Committee:
Ph.D. degree in Plant & Soil Science
Research ~~scientist~~ scientist, Retired
worked with agricultural pesticides
7. If you are appearing on behalf of an organization, please list the capacity in which you are representing that organization, including any offices or elected positions you hold:
President - Franklin County
Farm Bureau Association

PLEASE ATTACH THIS FORM OR YOUR BIOGRAPHY TO EACH COPY OF TESTIMONY.

Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Required Witness Disclosure Form

House Rules* require nongovernmental witnesses to disclose the amount and source of Federal grants received since October 1, 2004.

Name: Bill Miller

Address: 2832 Ellis Road, Princeton, KS 66078

Telephone: 785-241-0241

Organization you represent (if any): Franklin County Farm Bureau Association

1. Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants and subcontracts) you have received since October 1, 2004, as well as the source and the amount of each grant or contract. House Rules do NOT require disclosure of federal payments to individuals, such as Social Security or Medicare benefits, farm program payments, or assistance to agricultural producers:

Source: _____ Amount: _____

Source: _____ Amount: _____

2. If you are appearing on behalf of an organization, please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants and subcontracts) the organization has received since October 1, 2004, as well as the source and the amount of each grant or contract:

Source: _____ Amount: _____

Source: _____ Amount: _____

Please check here if this form is NOT applicable to you:

Signature: Bill Miller

* Rule XI, clause 2(g)(4) of the U.S. House of Representatives provides: Each committee shall, to the greatest extent practicable, require witnesses who appear before it to submit in advance written statements of proposed testimony and to limit their initial presentations to the committee to brief summaries thereof. In the case of a witness appearing in a nongovernmental capacity, a written statement of proposed testimony shall include a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of the amount and source (by agency and program) of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) received during the current fiscal year or either of the two previous fiscal years by the witness or by any entity represented by the witness.

PLEASE ATTACH DISCLOSURE FORM TO EACH COPY OF TESTIMONY.