



## Upcoming Events

**November 11th Meeting-  
“Going Green and  
Going Agri-green”**  
featuring Fred Weil,  
President & CEO, Image  
Group of Georgia

[RSVP Here Now!](#)  
or call Amy Kolweier  
at 314-292-2371

**Thursday November 13th,  
Agricultural Leadership  
of Tomorrow Annual  
Meeting** for more  
information contact Kristin  
Perry at **573-324-6538** or  
by [email](#)

## News of Interest

[A Little Sunshine in a  
Gloomy Fall for Ethanol](#)

[Will 2009 Go Down as  
the Year of Ethanol?](#)

[Thinking it Through:  
Scientists Call for Policy  
to Guide Biofuels to  
Sustainability](#)

[Less Grass Means Less  
Gas!](#)

# AGRIBUSINESS BULLETIN

*“Promoting Food and Agriculture in America’s Heartland”*

## Ag Secretary Ed Schafer remains positive on the farm outlook despite current economic woes

“The Agriculture sector is in reasonably strong shape” stated Ed Schafer as he began his optimistic talk at the luncheon last month. Ed Schafer walked in with a warm smile and friendly demeanor shaking hands and mingling with guests. Secretary Schafer took a special interest in the FFA students that attended the luncheon. He spoke of how important they are to our future and encouraged them to participate by asking questions.

Secretary Schafer touched on key issues such as our current economic crises, Ag trade issues, biofuels, and Farm Bill implementation.

Mr. Schafer spoke briefly on the scope of our current economic crisis and how it’s changed the risk and reality of doing business in every industry. Despite the free flow of credit being disrupted in all industry sectors, Mr. Schafer remained optimistic, stating that the credit market in the Ag sector is much better off than in other industries.

Secretary Schafer focused strongly on the topic of free trade. He emphasized President Bush’s current focus on winning free trade passages with countries such as Korea, Columbia, and Panama. Mr. Schafer stated that the signing of a free trade agreement with Korea would give the US access to a \$1 Trillion economy and generate an additional \$1.6 Billion in agriculture exports. In addition, he touched upon the important economic benefits of getting Congress to approve an agreement to slash tariffs on trade with Columbia and Panama.

Regardless of the controversy of food vs. biofuels, Secretary Schafer strongly supports the efforts and development of alternative biofuels. “The renewable fuel industry here at home is critically important to the future of the growth of American Agriculture” he stated.



*Ed Schafer, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture*

Secretary Schafer highlighted the importance of moving forward with the National Biofuels Action Plan in order to meet the goals of the Energy Bill. The bill requires an increase in the production of biofuels by 36 million gallons by the year 2022, which is a 7-fold increase of our current biofuel production. A ramping up of biofuel research and the building of new infrastructure will be needed in order to obtain these goals, still Secretary Schafer remains optimistic.

## New Members October 2008

### **Jim Altemus**

Ag Consultant

### **Kendall Brune**

Chief Executive Officer,  
Future Focus Community

### **Bryce Bushmeyer**

Insurance Specialist, 1st  
Farm Credit Services

### **Adam Jones**

Credit Analyst

### **Frank Moore**

Director of Dairy Business  
Group, Purina Mills, LLC

### **Matthew Morrison**

Associate, Armstrong  
Teasdale LLP

### **Evis Prodan**

Senior Credit Analyst,  
CoBank

### **Jim Renneker**

Senior Credit Officer,  
CoBank

### **Andrea Rygelski**

Credit Officer, CoBank

### **Jesse Schwanke**

Ag Instructor, North Shelby  
High School

### **Tracy Sidney**

Senior Credit Analyst,  
CoBank

### **Duane Simpson**

Senior Director,  
Government Affairs,  
Monsanto

### **William Tunis**

Vice President -  
Commercial Lending, UMB  
Bank

### **Leanne Watkins**

Account  
Executive, Brighton

### **Matt Wehmeyer**

Risk Management  
Associate, FCStone

## Member Spotlight

### Member Spotlight

**Name:** Mike Adams

**Affiliation:** Director, St. Louis Agribusiness Club

**Employment:** AgriTalk, Radio Host

**Background:** Adams was raised in a small farming community in central Illinois and grew up working on a grain and livestock farm. He served west-central Illinois on WLDS Radio in Jacksonville for 27 years primarily as Farm Director. Over the years Mike has covered state, national and international events including broadcasts from 11 countries while meeting four U.S. presidents, Pope John Paul II and Cuban dictator Fidel Castro.

Mike took over as host of the nationally syndicated talk show, AgriTalk, in July of 2001. He facilitates a discussion about issues and ideas important to rural America, traveling over 100 days a year for remote broadcasts across the country.

**Activities:** Adams is a voting member and past president of the National Association of Farm Broadcasting

**Awards:** Adams has received numerous awards from agriculture and civic organizations including the Illinois Friend of 4-H award, the National FFA Honorary American Farmer Degree, the United Soybean Board's Communications award and the Illinois commodities groups Friend of Agriculture award. Adams was selected by the NAFB as National Farm Broadcaster of the Year in 1995. Next month he will receive the 2008 Eagle Award for Excellence from the Illinois Farm Bureau and the Outstanding Service to Agriculture Award from the Missouri Farm Bureau.

**Personal:** Adams served 20 years as a certified lay speaker including 16 years as a lay pastor for a rural Illinois United Methodist church. Mike and his wife Patty have two grown children and currently reside in O' Fallon, Mo.



Join us in Supporting

## Trees for the Troops!!



Agribusiness Club member Steve Drake, Ag Leader of the year in 2007, is actively involved in the Trees for Troops program. Their mission is to deliver 16,000 or more farm-grown Christmas trees to families at more than 40 military bases around the world. In September they received a national award for their efforts. For more information on their program please refer to the video link below:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/RealTrees>

or visit their website at:

[www.ChristmasSpiritFoundation.org](http://www.ChristmasSpiritFoundation.org)

## Useful Links

[St. Louis Agribusiness  
Economy Study](#)

[Missouri Dept. of  
Agriculture Website](#)

## Agribusiness Club member Mike Adams of Agri-Talk radio moderates Food & Fuel Forum in Kansas City

### Monthly Quote

"I have always said there is only one thing that can bring our nation down – our dependence on foreign countries for food and energy. Agriculture is the backbone of our economy"

*Congressman  
John Salazar*

Expert representatives from both sides of the controversial food versus fuel debate gathered last week in Kansas City to support their views at a public forum. St. Louis Agribusiness Club was a proud co-sponsor of this very successful event.

Agribusiness Club member, Mike Adams, host of Agri-Talk radio, did an excellent job of moderating the forum. Mike kicked off the event by expressing his strong support of the ethanol industry. Regardless of his personal views, Mike was there to support the enhancement of the understanding of both sides of the panel.

Prior to the panel discussion we heard from three speakers, USDA Undersecretary Tom Dorr; Randy Schnepf, agricultural economist with the Congressional Research Service; and Editor-in-Chief of Sosland Publishing, Morton Sosland.

The afternoon panel discussion included 4 experts in the field. Proponents of biofuel production included Ken McCauley, chairman of the National Corn Growers Association and Blake Hurst, VP of Missouri Farm Bureau Federation. Food Use proponents included Robb Mackie, President and CEO of the American Bakers Association and Daniel



*Pictured from Left to Right: Blake Hurst, Mike Adams, Robb Mackie, Ken McCauley, Randy Schnepf, and Dan Gustafson*

Gustafson, Director of the North American Liason Office, for the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Each panel member discussed the effects of biofuel production on their particular industry. Proponents of the ethanol industry, welcomed the higher demand for corn, whereas opponents of the biofuels, were concerned with the increased food prices and the looming food shortage worldwide. Both parties did agree that the

production of ethanol does factor into the increase in food prices, however; it is not the main culprit. All panel members agreed that more significant factors such as tight global grain stocks, export bans, and skyrocketing energy costs are the main contributors to our increasing food prices.

Since both sides supported their argument well, and the boxing gloves did not come off the shelf, I think it's safe to say that the Food & Fuel Forum was a great success.

If you have news you would like to share or suggestions for this newsletter please contact [Jennifer Sowash](#) at 314-513-4212 or [Christopher Smith](#) at 314-982-8603

[Click here to visit the Agribusiness Club Website](#)

Questions or comments? Contact [Jennifer Sowash](#) or [Christopher Smith](#)

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