



## **2007 SLATE OF OFFICERS AND AT-LARGE NOMINEES FOR MISSOURI FARMERS UNION**

Each year, working over a period of months, it is the duty of the nomination committee, to seek nominations from MFU members and determine a slate of officers and at-large board members for election at the annual conference. The slate is sent to all members 60 days before the annual convention and business meeting. The nominations committee presents the following slate to be voted on at the annual convention business meeting on January 27, 2007.

### **MFU BOARD OFFICERS (Elected each year)**

President-Russell Kremer  
Vice-President-David Ketsenburg  
Secretary-Barbara Ross  
Treasurer-Jake Davis

### **MFU BOARD MEMBERS AT-LARGE-(Terms to expire January 2010 – five positions are open)**

Richard Bauman  
Richard Oswald  
Kenneth Wayne Scott  
Lyle Wright  
Steve Wright

**Nominations may be accepted from the floor at the annual convention business meeting.**

### **Board terms expiring in January 2007 are:**

President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer  
At-Large members- Jake Davis, Richard Oswald, Linda Williams, Pam Wright, Steve Wright

The **call for nominations** was mailed to all members in August, and placed in the late summer edition of the MFU newspaper; it was sent again in a late September mailing. The **call for nominations** included the statement of duties, responsibilities and expectations of state board members as shown below.

*"The board governs MFU statewide, establishes policy, approves program and organizational goals, looks to the financial health of the organization and represents MFU to the state and nation. Serving on the board is interesting, educational, rewarding, a serious responsibility and it is fun. A member of the Board should expect to:*

- *Support the mission of MFU: "To protect and enhance the economic interests and way of life of family farmers and ranchers and the rural communities they represent."*
- *Attend all board meetings*
- *Decide and assist in carrying out Board policy*
- *Support the best interests of the organization free of any special agenda*
- *Hold current membership in MFU*
- *According to one's ability support MFU's financial goals."*

Additionally, they were asked to submit the information below:

1. *Provide a brief biographical sketch including any special skills.*
2. *Describe your interest in serving on the MFU board.*
3. *Provide any additional information you would like to share*

## Nominee biographies and statements of interest in serving MFU

### **OFFICERS**

**President, Russell Kremer**-Russ has been a lifelong diversified family farmer in Osage County. He administered a Young Farmers' Program for 12 years and daily worked with nearly 300 farm families. He is a past president of the Mo. Pork Producers Association and served five governors on their Advisory Council on Agriculture. He currently serves on the national board of directors for the Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture, Cooperation Works and National Farmers Union. With the exception of a few months, he has been president of MFU since its inception in 1999.

He states that "he has a passionate interest in serving family farmers and rural residents and helping them obtain a higher quality of life. Farmers Union's mission and philosophies are truly what I believe in and the activities in which I wish to devote my time. I have been honored to serve as MFU's President and vow to continue to lead this organization toward greater membership growth, initiation of community development projects, credible legislative activity, and to work fervently for empowerment of the under served." Russ has served full time as MFU President since 1999.

**Vice President, David Ketsenburg**-David is currently MFU vice-president and president of the MFU Family Farm Opportunity Center. He has attended many Farmers' Union events and meetings, including coop development seminars and trainings. Since joining MFU, David has attended all the NFU annual conventions as a Missouri delegate. He has provided legislative testimony at the state and federal levels on behalf of MFU and NFU. Along with his wife, Laura, David believes in the MFU philosophy and is committed to MFU's ongoing development. He seeks to help MFU become a powerful voice for family farm agriculture. Since becoming MFU vice-president in 2000, he has represented MFU on many occasions and states that he enjoys being with farmers from across Missouri, sharing MFU's views on coop development, and he enjoys working on legislative issues. Since becoming president of the MFU Family Farm Opportunity Center, David has worked aggressively to steer MFU toward new opportunities for family farmers, beginning and young farmers, and the revitalization of rural communities. David has made a thorough study of the history of Farmers Union, thus becoming the resident historian for our state organization.

**Secretary, Barbara Ross**-Barbara was raised on a diversified family farm in central Missouri. She has earned Bachelors degrees in Social and Community Services, and in Education; utilizing a full fellowship to the University of Missouri-Columbia, she earned a Master degree in Education. She has over 20 years of experience in public policy and social advocacy work with a strong focus on family farming, food and agriculture. She has served as MFU state secretary since 2001. Barbara also serves as chair of the MFU nomination committee and is on the policy and by-laws committee. She states, "I want to work with others who are committed to a progressive, grassroots movement that seeks to preserve and revitalize family farming, that cares for the environment, and that will work to rebuild the vitality of rural communities through alternative, sustainable and localized social and economic institutions. For the past 18 years, she has been Director of the Social Concerns Office of the Catholic Diocese of Jefferson City. Barbara lives in Jefferson City where she farms container-grown flowers and plants and ranches a herd of two cats. She says she plans on expanding her operation as soon as she can purchase a larger spread.

**Treasurer, Jake Davis**-Jake grew up in Seneca, Mo., and currently lives in Columbia, Mo., with his wife Chelsea, where he is completing a Master's degree in Public Administration at UMC. In 2005, he earned a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Education from UMC. Jake is an active member of Missouri FFA Alumni Association and was a Missouri State FFA officer from 2000-01. Jake serves as a presenter for both the National FFA Leadership program and the Missouri Electric Cooperatives CYCLE program. Jake is a member of the Missouri Farmers Union Collegiate Chapter at UMC, and he is a camp facilitator for the Kansas Farmers Union Teen Camp. Currently, Jake is doing his graduate internship at

Missouri Farmers Union where he is focused on development of the carbon sequestration credit program, as well as daily office procedures and administrative duties. With his four older brothers who live in Southwest Missouri and Northeast Oklahoma, Jake operates a cow-calf herd and raises registered Paint Horses.

### **AT-LARGE MEMBERS**

**Richard Bauman**- Richard raises Nubian dairy goats and Miniature Hereford cattle near Cabool, Missouri. He has a Bachelor's degree in Natural Resources and a Master's degree in Community and Outdoor Recreation from Central Michigan University. Richard's professional experience includes teaching and grant writing, as well as community development and administration work. He has written for a variety of agriculture-related publications and hosted radio programs on community and personal health. Over the years, he has been active on a number of nonprofit boards and with community organizations. Richard is an active member of the Central Ozark Chapter of MFU and he states, "I have always been interested in rural America and its farms. My proposal for a doctoral dissertation was, 'Expanding Year-Round Programs in Small Rural Communities.' I believe this nation depends, and will even more depend in the near future, on having a sound, successful, prosperous agriculture system. I am very concerned with the declining emphasis on the importance of the small farm and the families whose way of life depends on it." In 2007, Richard and his wife Barbara will celebrate 50 years of marriage. They have five adult children and seven grandchildren.

**Richard Oswald**-Richard farms in the Missouri River bottoms of Atchison County, within 2 miles of the Missouri River. In 1964, when his dad went to work in town, he started farming his parent's home place that had just come out of the Soil Bank program. Richard and his wife Linda live in the house where he was born; it was built by his parents in 1939. He and Linda have three grown children, and they are now raising their adopted grandson, Ryan. Richard started out running a diversified livestock/row crop farm with hogs and cattle. Gradually, his emphasis shifted to white and yellow specialty corns. He sold his first *Frito* corn around 1966. He now farms with his son Brandon who also maintains a cattle herd on family land. He and Brandon also rent land from cousins; land homesteaded by their great, great grandfather, Enoch Scamman, when he came to the area in 1850. Richard says, "I am generation 5, Brandon is generation 6, on this land." In the 1990's, he served nine years as a director of the Rock Port School District and was board president for 6 years. He is a director of the Langdon Special Road District and serves on the NRCS Technical Committee. Richard sums up his career in farming this way, "I have survived 2 floods, borrowing from PCA, massive interest rate hikes in the 70's and again in the 80's, 3 grain embargoes, \$12 hogs, \$40 cattle, and 2 land price implosions as well as countless government farm programs designed to "help me". Most recently, Richard ran for state representative in District 4. Richard has served as a director on the MFU state board for the past three years.

**Kenneth Wayne Scott**-Kenneth lives on the family farm where he was raised with eight siblings near Qulin, Mo. On his 30-acre farm, he operates a profitable business selling naturally grown okra. He states that he is especially grateful for MFU because it was through their efforts that he was able to establish marketing outlets for his okra that have made his operation profitable. He notes that he especially loves growing produce. Kenneth serves as secretary of the board for the MFU Southeast Missouri Chapter (SEMO.) For 27 years, Kenneth lived in Colorado where he was the publisher of a monthly magazine; he later owned and operated a cabinet business. Currently, Kenneth uses his business management and writing skills as manager of the Ozark Quality Hardwoods cooperative, which was assisted in its development by MFUFFOC. Kenneth went to aircraft mechanic school and currently possesses a private pilot's license. He states "MFU has become a work priority in my life."

**Lyle Wright**-Lyle is the Coordinator for the MSU Small Business Development Center located in West Plains, Mo. Lyle has consulted with both start-up and existing businesses,

bringing a positive economic impact of over \$7.7 million dollars to the area. Lyle has worked nationally and internationally with several firms in various management areas and has owned a consulting practice focusing on small business. In addition to leading seminars on business start-ups, he teaches business classes at the West Plains SBDC site. Also, Lyle is a *Certified Agriculture Business Counselor* from the University of Missouri. He has a Bachelor's degree in Engineering from the University of Illinois and a Master of Management degree with an emphasis in Marketing and Finance from Northwestern University. Lyle states, "I really admire the objectives of the Farmers Union and feel that the things I know could be useful to the board." Also, Lyle assists his parents in tending approximately 40 honeybee hives and in harvesting several thousand pounds of honey each season. Lyle is married and has two sons.

**Steve Wright**-Steve lives in Monroe County where he has been in production agriculture since graduating from high school in 1977. Steve is married to Sara and they have two children, Sabrina and Stanley. With his brother Rodney and father Milford, they farm 2300 acres of corn, soybeans and wheat and have a cow-calf operation. They employ no-till and nutrient management techniques in their farming operation. Steve serves on the board of the MFA Oil Exchange and has served on the county University Extension board. He has been active for several years on the advisory board of the University of Missouri's Computer's on the Farm program. Steve has been a member of MFU since 2000 and has served as a director on the state board for the past three years.