

For those under 21
Driver's license change noted

The Kansas Legislature passed Senate Bill 554 in the 2006 session, requiring all driver's licenses issued to persons under the age of 21 to expire on their 21st birthday — on and after July 1, 2006.

The wording, according to the Department of Revenue, Division of Vehicles, does not allow the Division to renew licenses held by persons under the age of 21 early. Some license holders may not be able to visit a driver's license office on their birthday because of weekends, holiday, etc.

To assist individuals whose license may expire on a weekend or when a license office is not open, the Division will issue a temporary extension of the driver's license for 15 days, in order to give the driver time to renew when a license office is open.

Temporary extensions can be obtained from any state or county driver's license office before the license expires.

Fees for all new driver's licenses issued to persons under 21 will be \$20 for each class of license requested, as well as any applicable examination fees and photo fees. The fees for current licenses that will be renewing until their 21st birthday will be prorated to \$3 per year for each license class requested and any examination and photo fees.

Emergency grazing approved

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Jerry Moran said the U.S. Department of Agriculture has approved a Kansas Farm Service Agency request for emergency grazing of Conservation Reserve Program acres in 31 Kansas counties. Lack of moisture during the winter and spring has led to significant forage shortages, he said.

"This is a timely announcement and is good news for Kansas livestock producers," Rep. Moran said. "The early release of these CRP acres is a positive step that will help alleviate some of the problems our farmers and ranchers are facing. However, more must be done. Congress must address overall disaster assistance for areas of the country that are suffering from drought."

The drought in Kansas is extending into its fifth and sixth years. In 2005 alone, all but four counties in Kansas were declared disaster areas. Though some disaster assistance was provided in the conference report of the Emergency Supplemental, it is targeted only to producers in hurricane-devastated areas. Yesterday, Moran spoke to the House of Representatives about the effects of the multiple-year drought on farmers in the Midwest and advocated that Congress pass disaster assistance this year for areas of the country suffering from drought and other natural disasters.

"An act of God is an act of God," he said. "It is one thing to deny farmers across the country assistance, but to pick and choose which farmers receive assistance is unacceptable."

The inadequate moisture in the Midwest accounts for no less damage than that experienced by farmers in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama."

Action would hike ag trade with Cuba

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The House of Representatives has approved an amendment offered by Congressman Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) to the Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill. Rep. Moran's amendment seeks to increase the ability of U.S. agriculture producers to market their products to Cuba.

"Unilateral sanctions by the United States are only harmful to our agriculture industry and our farmers," he said. "Unfortunately, the Department of Treasury continues to frustrate the ability of American producers to sell their products to Cuba. There is no reason for our own government to make these sales more difficult."

In 2005, against the will of Congress, the Department of Treasury changed its interpretation of the cash payment in advance rule as it relates to agriculture exports to Cuba. The change caused payments to be made before the ships leave the ports rather than making payment upon delivery. Agriculture exports to Cuba were on the rise from 2001 to 2005, but the change resulted in decreases in agricultural trade between the two countries. Mr. Moran's amendment prohibits Department of Treasury funds from being used to administer, implement or enforce its change of the payment of cash in advance rule.

In 2000, he successfully opened the door to agriculture trade with Cuba. The legislation allowed for the export of agriculture products to Cuba for the first time in 38 years.

"Cuba must be able to count on the consistency of U.S. trading rules," Congressman Moran said. "Cuba will get its goods elsewhere if the rule persists. The only people who are hurt by this are American farmers."

This amendment has the support of a large number of organizations.

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The Fourth of July celebration at Sebelius Reservoir brought out the politicians, like Bob Strevey, Democrat of Norcatour (top photo), who passed out campaign brochures as he attempts to win a seat in the Kansas House. Young patriot, Avery Stark, (bottom left), stood by the American flag during Tuesday night's festivities. Avery is the son of Jeremiah and Alisha Stark, Norton. These two youngsters (bottom right) entertained everyone with their antics. Aiden Wicker (left) and Tegan Milnes shared a chair at the fireworks display. — Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts



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