

## Possible trade agreements could help Kansas farmers

By: Congressman Tim Huelskamp

When I stop and think about how quickly we exchange information and ideas with people across the globe, I am astonished. In a matter of seconds you can transmit your voice and picture to someone thousands of miles away. In a matter of hours you can travel to another continent. But, what you cannot do is sell our goods to people in certain countries. It's neither technology nor transport that's the impediment, either.

Sitting in the White House right now are three pending trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and Korea. They have been ready to go for months and years, but remain on the President's desk. We can exchange emails with and visit people in these three nations, and if these agreements are ratified, Kansans will be able to sell their goods and products to people in these countries.

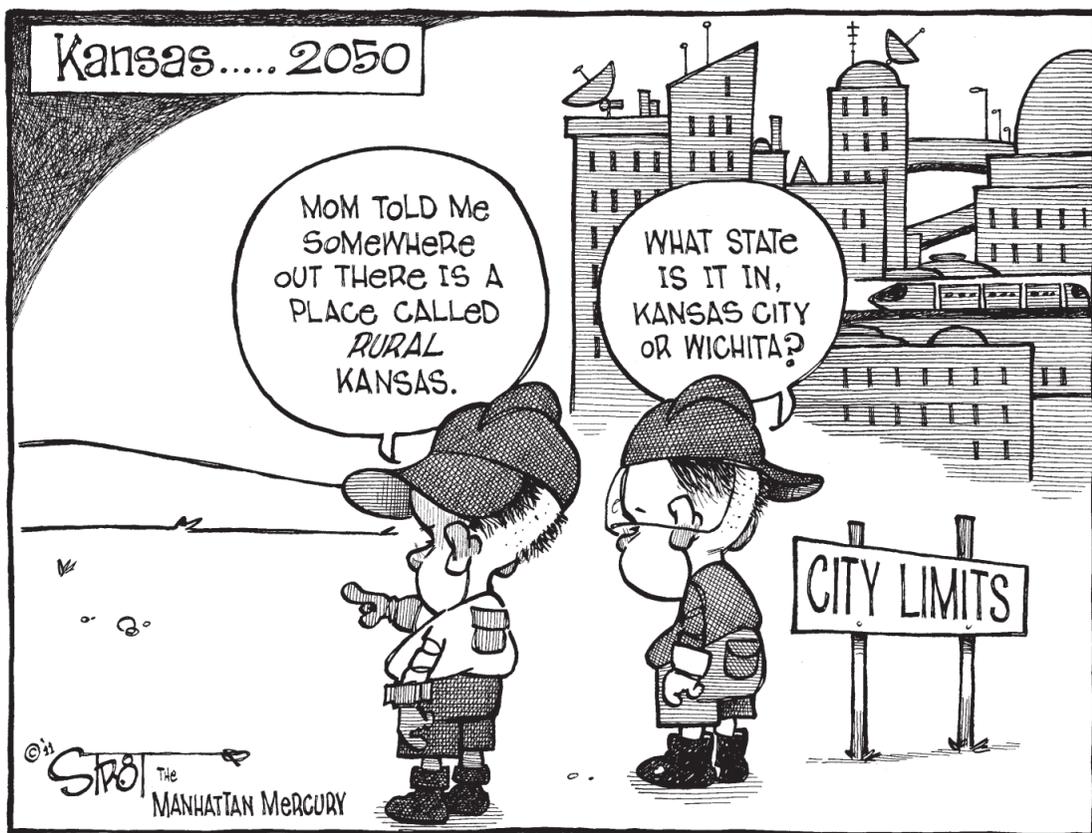
If the President would submit these three agreements to Congress, they would be approved swiftly. Democrats and Republicans alike in both the House and the Senate have already expressed their support for expanding trade with these nations. There are often disputes in Congress, but members of both parties understand the significant economic impact these agreements would provide to each of the 50 states.

With employment lagging, manufacturing declining, and overall economic growth stagnating, these agreements would provide immediate relief and opportunity to reverse these negative trends. Like every other state in the nation, Kansas would benefit tremendously both in economic activity and job creation as a result of finalizing these agreements.

According to the Kansas Farm Bureau, our state is likely to export \$106 million in agricultural goods to Korea, \$21 million to Colombia, and \$1 million to Panama. This is not chump change; this would provide a much-needed boost to our rural communities in particular. More than a thousand new jobs would be supported. And, what's more is that trade-related jobs pay up to 18% more. When Washington is in search of an easy - and inexpensive - way to get Americans back to work and money back in their pockets, this is a golden ticket.

In our global marketplace, we cannot afford to wait. One need only look to the new agreement between the European Union and Korea as an example of the opportunity created by opening trade between the U.S. and Korea. On July 1 of this year, the EU and Korea began a new agreement; the first two weeks saw a nearly 20 percent increase in trade volume for the EU. The U.S. would likely see similar surges. If Kansas could have the opportunity to trade on better terms with Korea - particularly beef - the gain would be ours. According to some estimates, every \$1 billion in beef exports to Korea would result in 12,700 jobs.

Members of both parties anxiously await receipt of these trade agreements from the White House, so it is my hope that when Congress is back in session in September, the President will send them immediately. Every day that goes by without ratification will likely include more negative economic indicators. Every day that passes, economists will continue to scratch their heads, wondering from where the recovery will come. These trade agreements may not be the full solution, but they are certainly one key piece of the puzzle of getting our economy back in shape.



## Preparing the home for upcoming visitors

If dust is mostly dead skin, I think someone died in my house.

BCA (before central air) I thought the excessive amount of dust was from open windows. Another selling point of central air was greater efficiency translating to lower electric bills. Neither thing works out in practice. The house is still dusty. The electric bills are higher than ever, though in fairness the summer has been excessively hot!

The upstairs (which is rarely used) stays relatively dust free. The daughter's theory is dust shifts down. One look in the basement proves that thesis.

I like to think I'm a good housekeeper, if you visited you might think so also (just don't look under the bed).

What brings these musings to the mind? All the kids will be home for the weekend. I'm pretty excited.

I want things to be nice when they come so they will come back! As we prepared for our company, a catalog arrived claiming if we did not order now we would never get another offering from them. Since we get so few cata-

## This Too Shall Pass

Nancy Hagman



logs, I could not let that happen. I chose a head board for the king bed upstairs.

The arrival of the head board and the impending kids' visit precipitated the need to clean upstairs. Actually more work than I usually look for, but you got to do what you got to do.

At least the day was cool, because even with central air the temperature regulation in the upstairs of this old house is a challenge.

I found a spider or two, but very little dust.

Having the bedrooms we rarely use clean inspired me to do a deep clean in the downstairs.

It had only been a year since I did a deep clean in our bedroom. I washed the curtains and cleaned the closet in the spring. Since we have the central

air now, just where does all the dust come from?

My mother-in-law says empty houses do not have spiders. They like people. But I did not find any spiders downstairs.

Just the body. Decomposing! UGH!

One of my favorite poems is DUST by Sydney King Russell:

Agatha Morley all her life grumbled at dust like a good wife.

Dust on a table, dust on a chair, dust on a mantel she couldn't bear.

She forgave faults in man and child but a dusty shelf would set her wild.

She bore with sin, without protest, but dust thoughts preyed upon her rest.

Agatha Morley is sleeping sound, six feet under the moldy ground.

Six feet under the earth she lies with dust at her feet and dust in her eyes.

Poor Agatha, poor me.

Eventually we all become dust.

"Ashes to ashes, dust to dust."

It may be the subconscious reason I desire to be cremated. I'd rather be ash than dust!

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## Brand name or generic churches, what is the difference

I always told my children there are some generic brands you can use which are equally as good as their name brand counterpart, for instance, tomatoes, petroleum jelly and bleach. Then there are those things where generic may not be as good, i.e. green beans, black olives and churches. Opening a can of green beans only leaves a bad taste for one meal, but becoming entrenched with a generic church can leave a bad taste for a lifetime. Sticking to a name brand church sometimes will protect you from the fringes of Christianity or any faith for that matter.

Recently many people seem willing to have their faith defined by someone sporting a generic brand. One who divulges little in terms of how they gained their knowledge. In contrast, "name brand" churches generally require course work in theology, taught by those educated in the same. In some generic churches, the title pastor or reverend can be obtained through mail

## Phase II

Mary Kay Woodyard



order or even less. Some claim having read the Bible on their own has given them all they need to know to lead others. When I was young, we had few versions of the Bible, mainly it was the King James Version, even then it was amazing how many people thought it was delivered from God in that format. Now there are countless versions. We went from one size fits all to choose your own ending.

Forget the separation of church and state. Now we have paired the pastor (or wanna be) and the politician. At a time when politicians' ratings are at an all time low, these presidential contenders

have taken on the task of interpreting God. These contenders are the same people trying to distance themselves from others in government while assuring us they alone understand the path God has designed for our country.

In the GOP arena, we have several self declared "Christians" wanting to receive the nomination for the highest job in the nation. One of Jack's best comments of all times has to be, "If you have to state you are Christian, you probably aren't."

It is one thing to have a presidential hopeful outline the priorities for our country, but it is quite another to have that hopeful define what our religious priorities should be. Those who are on the fringes of any movement give us the most to fear. And yet it is those very fringes which seem to be drawing the crowds. Relying on politicians to define our faith, reeks of the fox (news) guarding the henhouse. mailto:mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net

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