

# Kansas Farm Bureau continues to honor mental health advocates with Rural Minds Matter awards

SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

MANHATTAN — May is Mental Health Month, and Kansas Farm Bureau remains committed to supporting farmers, ranchers and other rural residents facing stress through resources available at [www.kfb.org/ruralmindsmatter](http://www.kfb.org/ruralmindsmatter). Building on last year's success, KFB is again recognizing outstanding mental health advocates with the Rural Minds Matter Advocate of the Year and Young Advocate of the Year awards.

After a successful inaugural year, these awards continue to highlight

individuals who are making a meaningful impact by advocating for mental health in rural Kansas communities.

"We are proud to recognize the dedication of those working to break the stigma surrounding mental health in rural areas," KFB President Joe Newland said. "Their efforts are instrumental in fostering awareness, support and change, and we are honored to celebrate their contributions."

In rural regions, access to mental health resources can often be limited, making the advocacy of individuals particularly crucial. By destigmatizing mental health, raising

awareness and implementing inclusive strategies, these advocates play a pivotal role in fostering improved well-being within their communities.

The Rural Minds Matter Young Advocate of the Year award celebrates the outstanding efforts of individuals aged 18-35 who have demonstrated exceptional advocacy for mental health awareness and support within rural communities across Kansas. This award recognizes the significance of empowering this generation to address mental health challenges effectively.

Similarly, the Rural Minds Matter Advocate

of the Year award honors individuals above 35 who have exhibited remarkable dedication and leadership in advocating for mental health awareness and support within rural Kansas communities.

This award underscores the substantial impact that experienced advocates have in addressing mental health stigmas and promoting access to resources and services in rural areas.

The selected recipients of both awards will receive:

- Recognition: The Rural Minds Matter Advocate of the Year award will be presented at KFB's Annual Meeting

and the Rural Minds Matter Young Advocate of the Year award will be presented at the Young Farmers and Ranchers Conference, both in Manhattan.

- Visibility: Articles will be written about their mental health advocacy contributions to appear on [www.kfb.org/ruralmindsmatter](http://www.kfb.org/ruralmindsmatter) and [www.kansaslivingmagazine.com](http://www.kansaslivingmagazine.com).
- Support: A \$1,000 cash prize will be awarded to the Rural Minds Matter Advocate of the Year recipient and the Young Advocate of the Year will receive \$500 to be used to continue their mental health advocacy efforts.

Nominations or applications for the awards require detailed information about the nominee's involvement in mental health advocacy, challenges they've overcome, awareness-raising efforts, destigmatization strategies, collaborative initiatives, impacts, leadership qualities, recognitions received, testimonials and reasons for nomination. The deadline to submit applications is July 18.

For more information about the Rural Minds Matter awards and Kansas Farm Bureau's mental health initiatives, visit [www.kfb.org/ruralmindsmatter](http://www.kfb.org/ruralmindsmatter).

## INTERN

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But first, her summer internship.

"I'm looking forward to it. I really love writing," Case said. "Being able to write all summer is very enticing. I want to learn what it's like at a 'real paper.' Get back in the writing role. I thrive when I have critiques. I'm also excited to learn more about design."

She will spend the summer living in Marquette.

"I enjoyed the area and the people," Case said. "I feel like I made some connections there in Lindsborg. I have a coffee

shop I love there; I've never had such good coffee since. It's part of my excitement (for moving to Marquette)."

She will also work for the Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter.

"Part of (my excitement) is (the papers) cover a large area — Ellsworth and Marquette. It gives me lots of opportunities to talk to people," Case said. "I'm from a very rural area. I would feel comfortable covering it. I know a lot about the farming side."

She moved to the family's farm around fifth grade.

"My family does wheat and corn. We farm organ-

ic," Case said. "In our house, we've always had chickens. My brother raises pheasants [and] guineas. My mom will get goats sometimes for milk."

Even as news editor for the college paper, Case said she still has the chance to write.

"This was the most fun I've had writing the story. Recently, we all went to Topeka to the Black Mass at the capitol building," she said. "I filmed the whole thing, we talked to people. I've never gone to something like that. What we did, our editor-in-chief and I, were going to co-write."

"I saw it was making

national news. It was really close to K-State. I knew it was going to be big. Even if it wasn't (making) national news, it was big Kansas news. It had a lot of law implications that was important for everyone to know."

Tribune Editor/Publisher Karen Bonar said she is excited to welcome Case to the team.

"During my time at K-State, I had several internships," she said. "Each was invaluable and helped form me into the journalist I am today."

"I am so excited to be able to pay it forward and help the next generation of journalists learn, grow and find their way into a career."

## CITY

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"Hopefully this new video helps clear some of that up," he said.

- Baker said his staff will install storm shelter signs on the school building.
- "We need some sort of plan," Mayor Willems said about opening the building during a storm warning.
- "The fire department is typically spotting (during a storm)," council member Autum Lustfield said. "If we are in the direct path of a tornado, the ambulance has to leave town. We are not in town if there's bad weather."
- This allows the ambulance to be ready to respond to emergency calls once the storm is over.
- Baker also reported his department is waiting on repairs for a well near the sports complex.
- The water line north of town is complete.
- Johnson said a person south of the river requested a sewer line flush.
- The next city council meeting will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 9, at city hall.

**Marquette Public Notice of Franchise Renewal**

(First Published in The Marquette Tribune, May 22, 2025)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that Kansas Gas Service, a Division of ONE Gas, Inc., and the City of Marquette, Kansas, have begun negotiations for the renewal of the City's natural gas Franchise Agreement. The proposed Franchise Agreement would provide a fee of two percent (2%) on the gross receipts derived from the distribution of natural gas within the City. The term of this Franchise Agreement is expected to be twenty (20) years. The current Franchise Agreement expires in May 2026.

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