NELD Washington DC

July 2011—3rd session

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Special points of interest:

- Cornerstone Government Affairs
- Congressional Insight computer simulation
- Visits with Senator Moran and Representative Huelskamp
- **Chilean Embassy**
- **U.S. Department of Agriculture**
- **U.S. Capitol Tour**

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Supreme Court Building

Washington DC Highlights

Well, my 2011 NELD experience is flying by in a whirl! I can't believe this is the 3rd session of the National Extension Leadership Program.

Washington DC was quite interesting, yet educational.

We had the opportunity of not only seeing the many historical buildings and sights, but also meet with our Kansas leaders.

This truly provided me with a better understanding of the extremely important decisions that are made in Washington DC that affect each and everyone of us in Kansas.

Our Kansas delegation was very fortunate to meet with a couple of our key legislative leaders, Senator Moran and Representative Huelskamp. We were able to visit with each of them personally even with their very busy schedules.

Of course, the biggest challenge mentioned by both of them was the budget. This issue has been a concern for several years and will continue to be a challenge for our nation.

U.S. Capitol—What a truly manifiscent example of the architectural abilities of our ancestors.

We were also exposed to an international twist with a visit to the Chilean Embassy. Our speaker, Mr. Roberto Matus, Deputy Chief of Mission. He truly enlightened our NELD group and provided insight on how they are a strategic partner with the U.S.

I had visited the memorials previously, but every visit just seems to create a yearning for our historical heritage. It is hard to believe just how much sweat and sacrifice our ancestors have faced. We truly are a "Nation Under God"! Thanks for this great opportunity.

Visits with Kansas Legislators

Our Kansas NELD delegation had the opportunity of visiting with Senator Moran and Representative Huelskamp while in Washington DC.

Senator Moran is a true supporter of K-State Research and Extension and understands our mission and goals of our organization. We appreciate his honesty and work for the people of Kansas.

Representative Huelskamp is one of the many "freshman" legislators, but is genuinely concerned and interested in the citizens of Kansas.

Budget is the "buzz" word on the hill, but we also discussed education, jobs and leadership styles.

Visit with Senator Moran in Washington DC. Pictured L to R: Gayle Price, Senator Moran, Sandra Wick, Brian Olson and Amy Jordan.

Cornerstone Government Affairs Lobbying Group

Typical business office front in Washington DC.

One activity of the NELD Washington DC trip was an opportunity to visit with professional groups within the DC area. The NELD group was divided in five groups for a more informal presentation. The visits involved a lobbying group, farm organizations, and special interest groups.

The five groups included The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), American Farm Bureau, Cornerstone Government Affairs, and the Children's Defense Fund.

I was assigned to the Cornerstone Government Affairs Lobbying group. There are actually over 100 different lobbying groups in the DC area.

This group was started 10 years ago with 8 partners. The group has grown to 32 employees with major issues being health care, agriculture, renewable fuels and appropriation.

There annual business is approximately $15 million.

with the "grass-roots " mission in-mind. Their goal is to find the people and the research that will prove to the congressman the NEED for the funding for programs.

The information is then structured to show programs that "make a difference"!

Cornerstone Government Affairs feels that they offer a different kind of customer service. There retention rate is over 90% return rate.

Leadership skills needed:

1. **Get Partners**
2. **Develop principles**
3. **Build a team**

Visit to Chilean Embassy

We were very fortunate to have the opportunity of a presentation at the Chilean Embassy. Mr. Roberto Matus, Deputy Chief of Mission for the Chilean Embassy. He provided us with insight into the improvement of Chile in the last 20 years.

- The poverty level of Chile has went from 38% in 1990 to about 15% in 2009.
- 10th largest producer of wine
- 5th largest exporter after France, Italy, Spain & Australia.
- 2nd largest exporter of Salmon to U.S.
- 96% of peaches to the U.S.

New Government in 2010....democratic process.

Chile is a small country ....but thinking BIG!

Founder Father of Chile in front of the Chilean Embassy

U.S. Department of Agriculture

U.S. Department of Agriculture includes many different agencies.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture houses many different agencies within the big umbrella.

WE were able to hear from the following agencies: Military and Veteran's Program; National Institute of Food & Agriculture (NIFA); NIFA International programs; and the NIFA Division of Family & Consumer Sciences.

One of the National Program Specialist in the NIFA Agriculture Systems is Emily Morehouse, a former Douglas County Kansas 4-H Agent.

Each of the programs were described to us so we could better understand how we as Extension Agents fit into their program.

Many of the programs have extensive federal grant programs.

The following are the issues of NIFA for 2011-12:

- Climate Change
- Bioenergy
- Food Safety
- Nutrition & Child Obesity
- Global Food Security & Hunger