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Prepayment may not be best option for 2008

By Nichole Ely

For 2008, record high net incomes were earned for many farmers across the state. Those producers hoping to ease the 2008 income tax burden are hoping to pre-pay 2009 input costs before December 31.

Under normal circumstances, farmers would buy a majority of their crop input expenses such as seed, fuel, herbicides and fertilizer prior to the end of the year. However, fertilizer prices have soared to historic highs, forcing farmers to make a decision: pay these exorbitant fertilizer prices this year to reduce 2008 income taxes, or wait until the 2009 calendar year, when fertilizer prices have fallen to more normal levels.

Kevin Dhuyvetter, Extension agricultural economist at Kansas State University, said buying decisions in the past have routinely been made from a tax management standpoint.

"Don't automatically think this is the best idea for this year," Dhuyvetter said.

Farmers should study alternative methods to reduce 2008 income for the upcoming tax season. Dhuyvetter suggests farmers can buy seed and fuel, but postpone fertilizer buys until prices have stabilized.

According to Dhuyvetter, prior to 2000, anhydrous ammonia prices routinely ranged from \$200-\$250 per ton, but doubled by 2002. Worldwide demand for natural gas — the feedstock for anhydrous ammonia, cause prices to peaking at more than \$1,000 per ton by late 2007 and early 2008. Anhydrous ammonia prices have since dropped due to weakening demand, caused by lower crop prices and a sluggish worldwide economy.

Now that fertilizer prices are dropping, many suppliers are being left with full inventories of high-priced fertilizer. This puts farmers and suppliers in an uncertain position.

"The businesses have to decide whether to sit on this high priced fertilizer or take a loss and get back to the

Continued on page 3

Sunset splendor



The spectacle of the setting fall sun illuminating the wind turbines just south of Concordia were quite a sight last week along Highway 81. The farm, which just came online recently, is located just south of Concordia. According to the Cloud County website, the farm is known as the Meridian Way Wind Farm. The site includes 38,000 acres of land, at an elevation of 1,650 feet. It is a 201 megawatt (MW) wind farm, and is owned by Horizon Wind Energy, LLC.

Hog prices may climb in 2009 but profitability still elusive

By Mary Lou Peter-Blecha

Against a backdrop of economic turmoil, moderately high feed costs and weak domestic demand, U.S. hog prices may still climb modestly in 2009, thanks to strong export demand and less pork production, said University of Missouri agricultural economist Ron Plain.

That does not mean, however, that raising hogs will be profitable next year, said Plain, who spoke Nov. 20 to attendees of Kansas State University's annual Swine Day.

"It's hard to be optimistic about domestic demand with the economy the way it's going right now," said Plain, who was the keynote speaker for the day.

His forecast for the benchmark Iowa-southern Minnesota negotiated price per carcass hundredweight in 2009 was for an average annual price in 2009 of \$67 to \$72. His forecast, broken down by quarter, included a price range of \$58 to \$63 in the first quarter; \$70 to \$75 in the second quarter; \$73 to \$78 in the third quarter and \$66 to \$71 in the fourth quarter.

The \$67 to \$72 price prediction would be above the



It was a full house at the Kansas State University Alumni Center for the 2008 edition of Swine Day. Ron Plain, a noted ag economist from the University of Missouri gave his market predictions, which were not necessarily good news to the hog farmers in attendance.

projected 2008 average price range of \$63 to \$64 and the actual average price for 2007 of \$61.91, he said.

On a live hog basis in the Iowa-southern Minnesota market, Plain anticipates

the average annual price range of \$51 to \$55 per cwt for 2009. That would also be slightly above the projected price of \$48 to \$49 in 2008 and the actual average price of \$47.05 in 2007.

Plain's forecast by quarters for live hog trade per cwt in Iowa-southern Minnesota in 2009 included: \$44 to \$48 in the first quarter; \$53 to \$57 in the second quarter; \$55 to \$59 in the third quarter and \$50 to \$54 in the fourth quarter.

Plain said production of all four meats typically consumed in the United States — pork, beef, chicken and turkey — is expected to be down from this year's production. If that materializes, it would be the first time since 1973 that production in all four categories was less than the previous year.

He expected overall hog slaughter of 113.670 million head in 2009, down 2.7 percent from 116.830 million head projected in 2008, but up from 109.172 million head in 2007.

While Plain said he expects demand for pork from U.S. consumers to continue weak because of U.S. economic woes, there are bright spots in the industry, including demand for U.S. pork from overseas buyers and fewer expected farrowings next year.

"Export demand is what's driving hog prices. 2007 was the 16th consecutive record year for U.S.

(pork) exports, he said, adding that 2008 will mark the 17th year.

That translates to billions of dollars in pork sales to overseas buyers.

In 2008, January-September, the value of total U.S. pork exports was \$3.114 billion or \$36.11 per hog slaughtered, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture data. That compares with the 2007 value at \$2.752 billion or \$25.21 per hog slaughtered and is well above the 2003 value of \$1.393 billion or \$13.80 per hog slaughtered.

Japan was the No. 1 overseas buyer of U.S. pork in 2007, buying 35.1 percent of all U.S. pork exports, Plain said. Mexico was No. 2 at 14.7 percent, Canada was No. 3 at 12 percent and China-Hong Kong was No. 4 at 11.6 percent. South Korea and Russia came in at 8.7 percent and 8.0 percent, respectively.

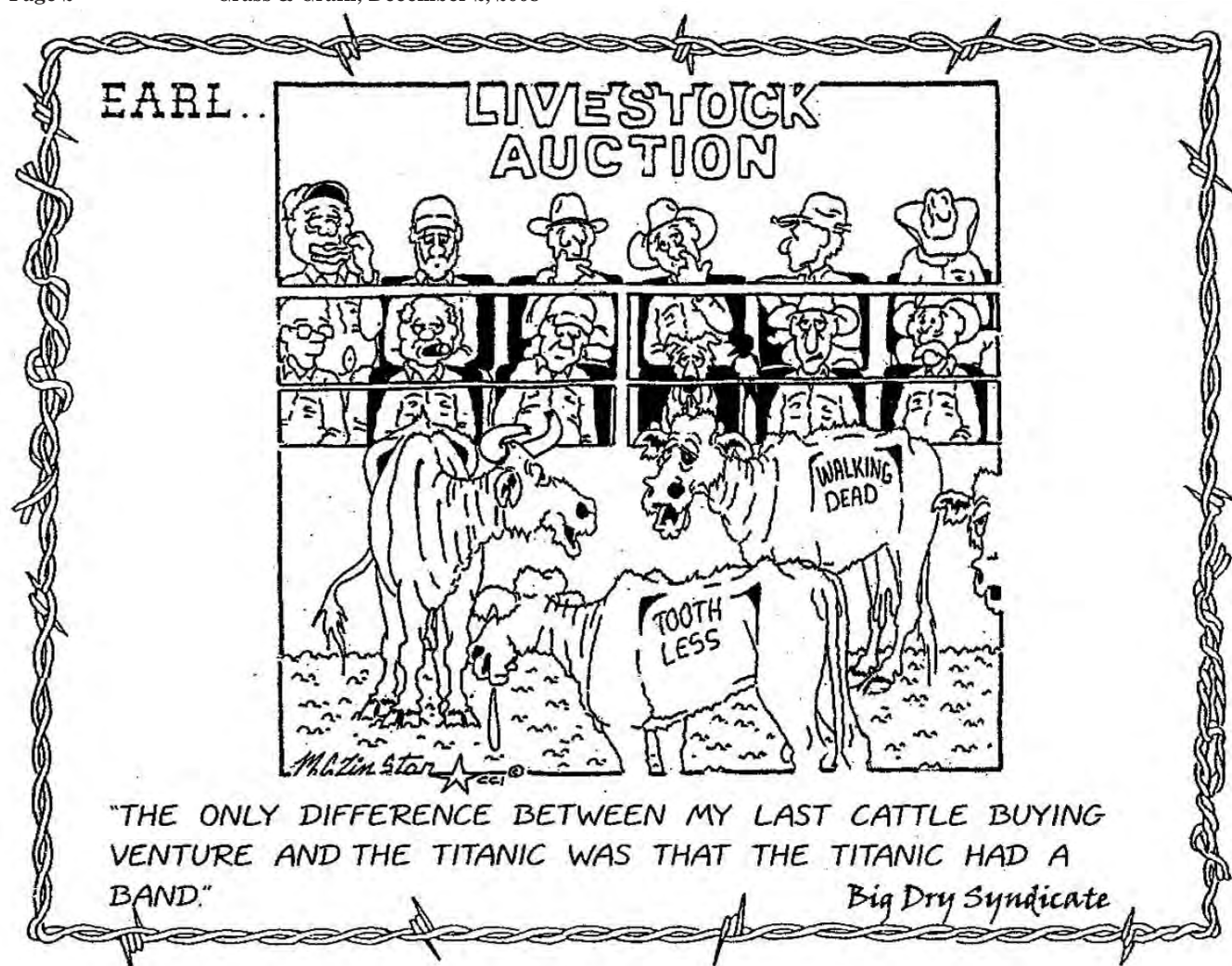
The other bright spot in the hog market is that pork production continues to get more efficient, he said.

"The number of litters per sow per year have been increasing since 1930 and carcass weights also have been increasing," Plain said. "The average slaughter

weight has been going up one pound per year for the last 50 years."

Since 1930, Plain said, the United States has reduced sow inventory by 42 percent, but has increased annual pork production by 221 percent.

He said he expects that further improvements in swine genetics will continue that trend for another 50 years: "As far as I can tell, there is no end to this getting better."



Over the Barn Gate

By Beth Gaines-Riffel

Change takes some getting used to. That, and a big dose of conditional acceptance. Sort of like me getting accustomed to the first-year band member's regular practice on the trumpet. In all honesty, it's really not as bad as I had braced for. In fact, I feel pretty good in that I can regularly recognize the tune he is usually working upon. Either he's not too shabby in the music department — or I have an "ear" for picking through the notes. Maybe a little of both.

I had the opportunity to visit with a group of young women last week at a conference organized by Allen County Community College, focusing on careers in agriculture — specifically geared to girls. It's always enlightening to listen to the next generation of agriculturists — and what their expectations are and how they perceive the business. Some come into the field eyes wide open, knowing the realities of the challenges which lie ahead, while others are a bit more "enchanted" if you will. They have dreams and expectations of making a difference and enjoying the fulfillment which comes from sharing the stories from the farms and ranches across the countryside. I probably fell into the latter category in my younger years — since I thought I was destined to be the next Paul Harvey.

What I've come to discover through the years I've been in this business — is a steady diet of one or the other really isn't good. We need a sprinkling of dreamers — those people who aim for the stars on a regular occasion. These are individuals who aren't put off by a challenge and are determined to get a job done. But obviously this needs to be offset with a heavy dose of reality — those who point out stumbling blocks and who may or may not be enthusiastic about pitching in and helping with a project that may seem "far-fetched."

Dr. Val has used his column in recent weeks to commiserate with those who are perceived to be all-consumed with the farm. I won't disagree there are those who may have their priorities askew and their families bear the brunt of the obsessive behavior — but farmers and ranchers aren't the only ones who become consumed by their professions. I know of a fair share of researchers, marketers, coaches, performers, accountants, bankers, merchants also fall prey to the negative workaholic behavior.

I bring this up only because I believe there has to be a happy balance in any field to achieve success. Just something to think about. I'll chat with you next week, "Over the Barn Gate!"

"I, not events, have the power to make me happy or unhappy today. I can choose which it shall be. Yesterday is dead, tomorrow hasn't arrived yet. I have just one day, today, and I'm going to be happy in it."

— Groucho Marx



"Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened."

— Theodor "Seuss" Geisel

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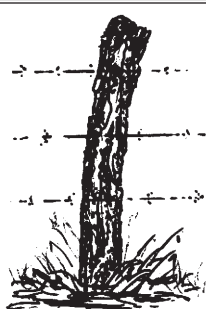
By Ace Reid



"Jake, on second thought, let's jist eat 'em here!"

The Learning Post

By Gordon Morrison
Concordia Rancher and
Former Agriculture Educator



Getting Ready For Tough Times

It seems my column has been rather somber for several weeks now; but as I sit here pondering on what to write about, again the thoughts of what is happening in our nation cloud my thinking. Everyone seems to be asking what is down the road for America and its people. While it may be just a temporary situation, we are at least benefiting from a decrease in the cost of fuel.

Many of us have experienced firsthand the deep depression of the 1930s; the greatest and deadliest war — World War II — in the 1940s; the terrible flood of 1951; the drought of the 1950s; the American Agriculture Movement of the late 1970s, when farmers by the thousands went to Washington, D.C., some with their tractors; and high interest rates of 18 to 20% in the 1980s, when farmer after farmer went bankrupt. Do we, the older generation, owe it to the youth and the inexperienced to tell what it was like and what we learned from these experiences on how to survive hard times that again seem to be so imminent?

It is not hard to describe what it was like, but to advise on how one can avoid disaster is more difficult. In my column a few weeks ago, I offered advice that I thought would be helpful, including suggestions such as avoiding credit card debt except for convenience and then paying it off completely each month, reducing debt load as much as possible, investing cautiously, practicing preventive medicine for good health, extending goodwill, helpfulness, and forgiveness to others, and trying to avoid stress. Today, I will expand the list somewhat with some additional suggestions:

1. Don't panic but stay calm to help you be able to think clearly and wisely. Now is not the time to take risks.

2. Keep the lines of communication open with your family. Stress can create a strain in relationships,

but the cost and stress of divorce is a strain one does not need. Stay close to your spouse and also to parents and children. Discuss plans and establish a strategy for survival in hard times.

3. Establish or re-establish friendships that will be mutually supportive. Friendships are priceless when calamity hits.

4. Be accountable for your past decisions and actions. If you need to make amends, go to the offended person and do what is right and necessary to restore the relationship.

5. Your job is vital to your well-being. Give full measure to your boss. Do not give him a reason to fire you.

6. Discipline yourself on spending now before you are forced to. Cut back on luxury items and pleasure spending, and put that money in a safe place. A nest egg may be vital to your survival.

7. Be alert for scams and con artists. When times get tough, these parasites come out of the woodwork. They can be slick and slimy, making a bad deal sound good.

8. If goods are not selling for lack of buyers, be patient and wait for deflation to run its course and buy your needed item at its low point.

9. Plant a garden and grow much of your own food; perhaps even chickens. There may come a time when one will want to keep a sack of wheat, rice, or soybeans in reserve.

10. Guard your tools, gas, and other easily transported items from thieves.

11. Be thankful for your blessings, and be a blessing to others.

Now is the time to position yourself to be ready for tough times, so start planning ahead. Some people consider hard times or challenges as opportunities to grow. I like that attitude; that kind of faith gives hope and makes life exciting. After we have come through trying times victoriously, we are stronger people.



785-539-7558

Fax 785-539-2679

Editor — Beth J. Gaines-Riffel
gandgeditor@agpress.com

— Advertising Staff —
Steve Reichert Peggy Giles
Frank J. Buchman
agpress2@agpress.com

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Wait till 2009

Continued from page 1

price of the current market," Dhuyvetter said.

Jerin Wurtz, financial service officer at Frontier Farm Credit in Hiawatha, suggests decreasing fertilizer prices should force farmers to postpone the 2009 fertilizer purchases until late 2008, perhaps even in 2009.

Regardless of whether farmers decide to buy early or wait until prices drop, they should be in constant contact with their supplier and prepare to buy needed products as soon they know what those needs are, said Dale Leikam, president of the Fluid Fertilizer Foundation. In addition, farmers should continue using best-management practices to improve production efficiency. A routine soil-testing program should be used, if it hasn't already.

For more information about 2008 farm tax planning, attend the 2008 Kansas Commodity Classic, Dec. 9 in Salina. More information is available at www.kansaswheat.org or call 866-75-WHEAT.

K-State Swine Day 2008: Ag Economist Ron Plain Shares Swine Market Facts

Longtime agricultural economist Ron Plain was the keynote speaker Nov. 20 at the Kansas State University Swine Day. The University of Missouri professor shared numerous facts about the swine industry. They included:

The smallest 75 percent of U.S. hog farms produce 1 percent of the hogs.

The largest 1 percent of U.S. hog farms produce 75 percent of the hogs.

Since 1930, the U.S. has reduced sow inventory by 42 percent and increased annual pork production by 221 percent.

During the 1900s, U.S. population was highest in 1999; U.S. pork exports were highest in 1999; U.S. pork production was highest in 1999; but the U.S. sow herd was the smallest in 1999.

U.S. pork production in January-September, 2008 was 17.247 billion pounds, up 9.3 percent from 15.779 billion pounds in the same period of 2007.

U.S. pork exports in Jan.-Sept., 2008 totaled 3.619 billion pounds, up 65.8 percent from 2.183 billion pounds in the comparable period of 2007.

U.S. pork imports in Jan.-Sept., 2008 totaled 614.2 million pounds, down 16.6 percent from 736.2 million pounds in the same period of 2007.

For the first time since 1973, production of all four primary meats produced in the United States — pork, beef, chicken and turkey — is expected to be lower in 2009.

In 2007, swine herds that had one to 99 head averaged 7.53 pigs per litter; herds of 100-499 averaged 8.03 pigs per litter; herds of 500 to 999 averaged 8.43 pigs per litter; herds of 1,000 to 1,999 had 8.85 pigs per litter; herds of 2,000-4,999 averaged 9.10 pigs per litter; and herds of 5,000 and up averaged 9.28 pigs per litter.

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Many central U.S. swine producers switched in recent years to feeding their stock a corn-based diet. That decision may now need to change.

"With our recent harvests, as well as the increasing demand for corn in ethanol production, corn prices have risen dramatically — especially in comparison to milo's (grain sorghum). As a result, milo is emerging in many areas of Kansas as the more economical feed alternative," said Bob Goodband, swine specialist with Kansas

State University Research and Extension.

He uses a long-established price-point "rule" to assess when milo becomes competitive. That rule suggests milo merits a serious look whenever its price is 96 percent or less of the market value of corn. "In some locations, milo now is just 70 percent of the value of corn," Goodband said.

Pound for pound, milo can totally replace corn in all swine diets, he said. Average daily gains of pigs fed milo-based diets have proven to be similar corn fed.

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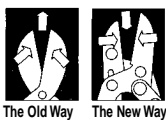
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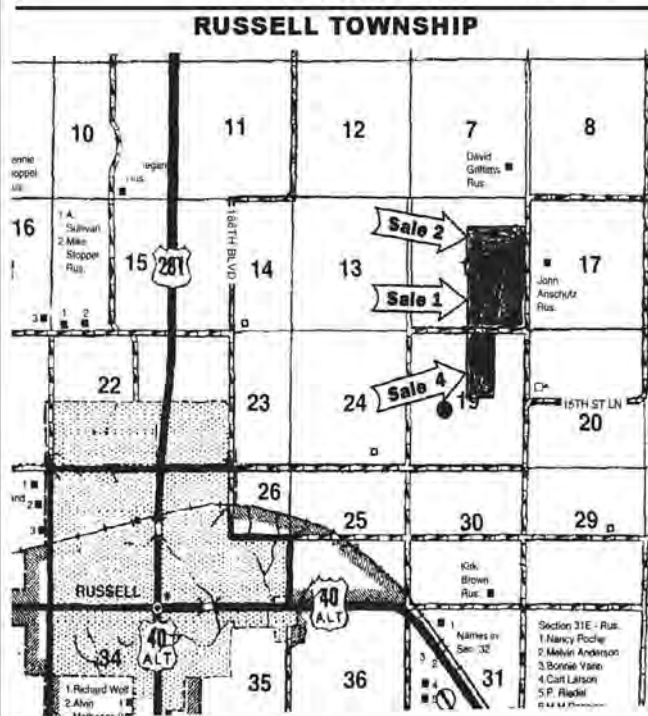
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TAXES:

TRACT I: \$133.70 for 2008

TRACT II: \$66.30 for 2008

TRACT IV: \$163.22 for 2008

Sellers will pay 2008 taxes and all prior years.

MINERALS: Appear to be intact and are selling with the Real Estate.

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TERMS: 10% down on each tract, day of sale. Balance due with certified funds when title insurance commitment showing Marketable Title is furnished. Purchaser to have 7 days to examine title insurance commitment. Expense of title insurance and escrow closing fees to be split between buyer and seller. Escrow agent will be Post Rock Abstract and Title Inc., in Russell, Kansas. Closing agent will be Post Rock Abstract and Title Inc. Closing to be on or before December 31, 2008 at the office of Post Rock Abstract and Title Inc., in Russell, Kansas. Purchaser will be required to sign purchaser's contract day of sale. All acreages were computed to the best of our knowledge. No guarantee of acreage is given by the F.S.A. office, Seller or by Victor Bros. Auction & Realty Inc.

NOTE: Purchasers will receive all of the 2009 CRP Payments pertaining to each tract purchased. Purchaser will be required to continue with present CRP contracts until they expire on September 30, 2009. If you are looking for some land to build on, hunt, farm or run livestock these tracts would be ideal. Only 5 minutes from Russell. Come out and attend the Auction. The Title Insurance Commitments will be available day of sale.

INSPECTION: Each potential bidder is responsible for conducting their own independent inspection and due diligence concerning pertinent facts about the property. Victor Bros. Auction & Realty Inc. are Seller's agent only. Any statement day of sale takes precedence over any oral or printed matter.

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TRACT I:
TRACT I: 3 miles East and 2 miles North of Russell on Shoreline Rd.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: SE/4 18-13-13-RS Co. KS.

F.S.A. INFORMATION: 122.28 Acres CRP, 19.64 acres native pastureland, 10.64 acres grassland, 4.09 acres feeding area & pens with well and submersible pump. A pond furnishes water for the pasture. The CRP contract rental rate is \$35 P/A per yr. This contract will expire 9-30-2009. All 2009 CRP payments will go to purchaser. Annual CRP payment is \$4,279.00.

TRACT II:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: S/2 NE/4 18-13-13- RS CO., KS 11.2 acres CRP with the balance of Approx 67.41 acres of pasture and grassland. The CRP rental rate is \$34. P/A per year. This contract will expire on 9-30-2009. All 2009 CRP payments will go to purchaser. Annual CRP payment is \$381.00.

TRACT III-A combination of Tract I and II:

NOTE: Tract I and II will be offered separately and then together. Whichever way command the highest bid will be the way they are sold. Sales subject to sellers approval day of sale.

TRACT IV:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: W/2 NE/4 19-13-13, RS CO., KS 74.65 acres, CRP, 3.1 acres WW. The CRP rental rate is \$35 P/A per year. The contract will expire on 9-30-2009. All 2009 CRP payment will go to purchaser. Annual CRP payments is \$2613.00.

*Sharon Bechtel, Emporia, Wins
Weekly Holiday Contest & Prize*

Winner Sharon Bechtel, Emporia: "Great to
serve with snacks on Christmas Eve."

CRAB DIP MOLD

8 ounces cream cheese
3/4 cup mayonnaise
2 teaspoons fine chopped onion (minced in food
processor)
1/2 teaspoon hot sauce (more or less according to
your taste)
1 teaspoon dijon mustard
Dash of white pepper
Dash of salt
2 cups fine chopped crab meat (minced in food
processor)

Line a bowl with plastic wrap. Mix all ingredi-
ents and put dip in and chill several hours. Turn
out on serving dish and serve with crackers or
baguettes or garlic bread.

Your Name: _____
Your Address: _____



2008 Grass & Grain Holiday Recipe Contest

Ida Eater, Raymond: "This makes a pretty salad or side and takes little time to prepare."

CALICO CRANBERRY COUSCOUS SALAD

1 cup water
3/4 cup uncooked couscous
1/2 cup dried cranberries
1/2 cup chopped celery
1/2 cup shredded carrot
1/4 cup chopped green onions
1/4 cup slivered almonds, toasted
Dressing:
3 tablespoons red wine vinegar
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 tablespoon dijon mustard
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper

Bring water to a boil. Stir in couscous; cover and let stand 5 minutes and fluff with a fork. In your serving bowl, combine couscous, cranberries, celery, carrot, onions and almonds. In a jar combine dressing ingredients and shake well. Pour over salad and toss well. Serve at room temperature or chilled.

Lucille Wohler, Clay Center: "A quick dessert."

MOUNTAIN PIE

1/2 stick oleo
1 cup flour
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 cup sugar
3/4 cup milk
1 can pie filling (your choice)

Melt oleo in an 8-by-8-inch baking dish. Mix in

flour, baking powder, salt, sugar and milk. Pour pie filling in center of mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 to 40 minutes. Check with a toothpick for doneness.

Julia Bergman, Seneca: PUMPKIN SNACK CAKE

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon baking powder
1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup packed light brown sugar
1/3 cup canned pumpkin
1/4 cup butter, melted
4 egg whites
1 cup milk
8-ounce tub whipped topping, thawed
Sprinkles or candy, optional

Preheat oven to 350 degrees and coat an 8-inch square baking pan with cooking spray. Combine the flour, baking powder, spice and salt. In a separate bowl beat (on medium speed) sugar, pumpkin and butter until smooth. Reduce speed to low and beat in egg whites until combined. Beat in flour mixture alternately with milk in three additions until combined. Pour in pan and bake 35 to 40 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool on wire rack 15 minutes. Remove from pan and cool completely on wire rack. Spread cake with the thawed whipped topping and decorate with sprinkles or candies.

Karen Saner, Burns:

EASY BAKED TERIYAKI CHICKEN

3/4 cup soy sauce
1/4 cup oil
3 tablespoons brown sugar
1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
2 1/2 to 3 pounds uncooked chicken (drumsticks or wings)

In a glass dish combine the soy sauce, oil, brown sugar, ginger and garlic powder; mix well. Put the chicken in a plastic bag and pour the marinade on the chicken. Put the tied bag in a bowl and refrigerate for 1 hour or overnight. Turn the bag several times. Drain and discard marinade and bag. Place chicken in a single layer on a foil-lined baking sheet. Bake at 375 degrees until chicken is no longer pink, 35 to 60 minutes.

Mary Rogers, Topeka: CRANBERRY ORANGE CHEESE

2/3 cup crushed chocolate wafer cookies
1 1/2 teaspoons finely shredded orange peel, divided
2 tablespoons butter, melted
(3) 8-ounce packages cream cheese
3/4 cup sugar
2 tablespoons flour

3 eggs

1/3 cup chopped dried cranberries
1/4 cup cranberry juice
1/2 cup fresh cranberries, coarsely chopped

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. For crust, combine cookies and 1 teaspoon of the orange peel; stir in butter. Press in bottom of a 9-inch springform pan and set aside. In a bowl beat cream cheese, sugar and flour with mixer for 5 minutes on medium. Mix in eggs and 1/2 teaspoon orange peel until combined. Fold in dried cranberries and juice. Pour into crust-lined pan. Sprinkle with fresh cranberries. Bake 35 to 40 minutes or until a 2 1/2-inch area around edges appears set when gently shaken. Cool on wire rack for 15 minutes. Using a small sharp knife, loosen edges from sides of pan. Cool for 30 minutes. Remove sides of pan and cool completely. Cover and put in refrigerator at least 4 hours before serving.

Kristie Dressman, Frankfort:

BROCCOLI GRAPE SALAD

1 bunch of broccoli, broken up

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1 head cauliflower
1 cup chopped celery
1 bunch of green onions
1/2 pound bacon or 3/4 cup bacon bits
1/2 cup slivered almonds
2 cups purple seedless grapes

Sauce:

1 cup mayonnaise or Miracle Whip

1/3 cup sugar

1 tablespoon vinegar

Combine salad ingredients together. Combine sauce ingredients and mix with salad. Can also use lite mayonnaise or Miracle Whip and Splenda.

Marla Gillmore, Moundridge:

PEACH CREAM PIE

3/4 cup sugar
2 tablespoons butter
3 tablespoons flour
2 or more sliced peaches
Cream

Crumble the sugar, butter and flour. Put half of

crumb mixture into unbaked pie shell. Slice peaches and put on mixture. Pour cream to cover the peaches and top with the remaining crumb mixture. Bake 45 minutes at 350 degrees.

Thelma Baldock, Delphos: "Got this recipe from my sister-in-law."

BUTTER COOKIE

1/2 cup brown sugar
1 cup butter
1 egg yolk
2 cups flour
1 teaspoon vanilla

Cream butter and brown sugar. Add remaining ingredients and mix well. Roll dough into balls the size of a dollar and flatten with a fork. Top with English walnuts or pecans. Bake in a 350-degree oven for 10 minutes. Makes 3 dozen.

WAREHOUSE AUCTION SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6 — 10:00 AM

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See last week's Grass & Grain for complete listings.

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G&G Announces Its Annual Holiday Recipe Contest

Nov. 25 through Dec. 23

In observance of the holiday season, Grass & Grain will award the weekly winners \$35 in addition to the prize gift.

Recipes received NOW through DECEMBER 15 will be entered in the holiday contest. Enter as often as you like during this period.

SNOWMAN SERVING STAND



Perfect for holiday buffets, parties and other seasonal gatherings, this Holiday Serving Stand is a festive way to serve and greet your guests. Each metal rack is approximately 22" x 13" and holds 9-inch diameter plates on the lower tier and 7-inch diameter plates above. Condiments and napkins can be placed in the hat and flatware in the holiday basket. Some assembly required.

BONUS DRAWING

Second chance to win! The names of all contestants will be entered in a drawing from which four names will be chosen. Each of these four contestants will receive \$35. Winners will be announced Dec. 23.

The winner each week is selected from the recipes printed.

Send us your favorite recipe. It may be a main dish, leftover, salad, side dish, dessert, or what-have-you.

1. Check your recipe carefully to make certain all ingredients are accurate and instructions are clear.

2. Be sure your name, address and phone number are on the entry. Please include a street address with your recipe entries. A post office box number is not sufficient for prize delivery. Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.

3. Send it to: Woman's Page Editor, Grass & Grain, Box 1009, Manhattan, KS 66505.

OR e-mail at: agpress2@agpress.com

2008 Grass & Grain Holiday Recipe Contest

Joyce Maginness, Fostoria: "A different and low-fat recipe on an old favorite."

TUNA NOODLE CASSEROLE

8 ounces no-yolk noodles
1 tablespoon butter or margarine
4 ounces mushrooms, thinly sliced 10 1/4-ounce can fat-free reduced-sodium condensed cream of mushroom soup
1 cup (4 ounces) shredded reduced-fat Monterey Jack cheese
8 ounces fat-free plain yogurt
1/2 cup sliced scallions
1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
1/4 teaspoon celery seeds
1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes

16-ounce package frozen broccoli florets, thawed
12-ounce can water packed chunk light tuna, rinsed, drained & flaked
1/2 cup crushed reduced-fat snack crackers
1/4 cup (1 ounce) grated Parmesan cheese

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Coat a 2 1/2-quart or 9-by-13-inch baking dish with nonstick spray; set aside. In a large covered pot bring water to a boil over high heat. Add noodles and cook according to the package directions. Drain and set aside. Melt the butter or margarine in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the mushrooms

and cook, stirring frequently, for about 4 minutes or until tender. Add the soup, Monterey jack, yogurt, scallions, black pepper, celery seeds, and red pepper. Mix well. Add the broccoli, tuna and noodles. Fold to coat with the sauce. Spoon into prepared baking dish. In a small bowl combine the crackers and Parmesan. Sprinkle evenly over the noodle mixture. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes or until bubbly and lightly browned. Makes 4 servings.

*You can replace the noodles with any pasta shape you like. You can replace the frozen broccoli with 2 1/2 cups fresh broccoli or other vegetable.

Sandy Hill, Eskridge:

CARAMEL-PECAN CHOCOLATE DESSERT

1-pound, 2.3-ounce box Betty Crocker fudge brownie mix
1/4 cup water
1/2 cup vegetable oil
2 eggs
1 cup milk chocolate chips
1/2 cup whipping cream
20 caramels (from 14-ounce bag), unwrapped
1 egg, beaten
1 cup broken pecans
3/4 cup whipping cream
2 tablespoons powdered sugar

Fresh raspberries, if desired

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Grease bottom and side of a 10-inch springform pan with

shortening. In a bowl mix brownie mix, water, oil and 2 eggs until well blended. Stir in chocolate chips. Spread in a pan and bake 50 to 60 minutes or until puffed in center and toothpick inserted near center comes out clean. Cool completely, about 1 hour. Meanwhile, in a 1-quart saucepan, heat 1/2 cup whipping cream and the caramels over medium heat, stirring frequently, until caramels are melted. Stir small amount of the hot mixture into beaten egg, then stir egg back into mixture in saucepan. Cook over medium heat 2 to 3 minutes, stirring constantly until thickened. Stir in pecans. Spread on brownies. Refrigerate uncovered at least 3 hours. In small bowl beat 3/8 cup cream and sugar on high speed until stiff peaks form. Serve with topping and raspberries. Serves 12.

Lois Lahodny, Belleville:
SOUR CREAM-RAISIN PIE
1 cup granulated sugar

1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon powdered cloves
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
2 eggs, beaten
2 tablespoons vinegar
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon soda
1 cup thick sour cream
1 cup seedless raisins
Combine sugar and spices. Beat sugar into eggs. Simmer raisins in a small amount of water until evaporated. Combine soda, vinegar, sour cream, sugar, egg mixture and raisins. Pour into 9-inch unbaked pie shell. Bake at 425 degrees until knife inserted comes out clean. Yield: 6 servings.

Noel Miller, Maple Hill: "Here is a recipe to use up some of your holiday turkey leftovers. Serve with some nice crusty baked bread. Makes a nice meal."

RITZY TURKEY CASSEROLE
16-ounce can French-style green beans, drained
15-ounce can shoepeg corn, drained
1/2 cup celery, chopped

1/2 cup green pepper, chopped (optional)
1/2 cup onion, chopped
1/2 cup sour cream
10 3/4-ounce can cream of celery soup
Salt & pepper, to taste
1/2 cup slivered almonds
2 cups cooked turkey (or can use chicken), cubed
12-ounce package round buttery crackers, divided
1/2 cup butter, melted

Mix together all ingredients except crackers and butter in a large bowl; spread into a lightly greased 9-by-13-inch baking pan. Crush half the crackers; reserve remaining crackers for another recipe. Combine crushed crackers with melted butter; sprinkle over casserole. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. Makes 6 servings.

Kellee Rogers, Topeka:
STRAWBERRY FUDGE
3 cups sugar

3/4 cup butter
5 ounces evaporated milk
12-ounce squares white chocolate
7.5-ounce jar strawberry marshmallow creme
1 cup chopped pecans
1 teaspoon vanilla

Line a 9-by-9-by-2-inch pan with aluminum foil, allowing foil to hang over edges of pan; set aside. In a heavy pan combine sugar, butter and milk. Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring frequently. Continue to cook until mixture registers 234 on a candy thermometer. Add white chocolate and marshmallow creme, stirring to combine. Add pecans and vanilla, stirring to combine. Pour mixture into prepared pan. Cool for at least 5 hours. When set, pull up on excess foil to remove fudge from pan. Peel back foil and cut into 1-inch squares.

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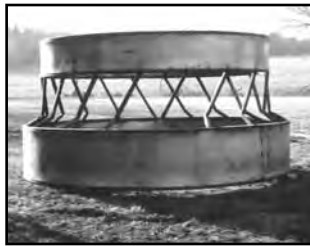
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2008 Grass & Grain Holiday Recipe Contest

Lynn Burgess, Lyons: "These several recipes are some of my mothers (Lois Heintz) and they are so fragile that I have them framed and hung in my kitchen. When my mother learned to cook she used real cream and when she left home (the late '30s) she had to find other recipes that didn't use cream. I remember mom and grandma making this cake and it is to die for."

BROWN STONE FRONT CAKE

1 cup sugar
2 1/2 cups flour
6 tablespoons cocoa
2 teaspoons soda
4 eggs
2 cups sour cream
1 teaspoon vanilla
Pinch of salt

Beat the eggs; add sour cream and vanilla. Mix with dry ingredients. Bake at 350 degrees until done in the center.

"This is out of an old cookbook from my grandmother (Gladys Backlund, Mitchell, S.D.) that was printed in 1938 by the Congregational Guild in Mitchell. It's a wonderful recipe and so versatile."

BROWN BREAD

2 cups graham flour
1 cup white flour
1 teaspoon soda

1 teaspoon salt
2 cups buttermilk
1/4 cup sugar
1/2 cup cornmeal
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 cup raisins
1/4 cup molasses

Dissolve the soda in the buttermilk. Add the dry ingredients all sifted together. Add the molasses and raisins. This recipe is sufficient for four #2 cans. Fill cans half-full. Steam 2 hours. Place in oven for about 10 minutes. No temperature given for baking.

"This recipe has been passed down through four generations from my great-grandmother, Alice Lowrie (South Dakota). I can't imagine what the doughnut baker's must have been like before 1900 but the recipes that come with the ones these days aren't as good and I'm still using the original recipe."

BROWN BOBBIES

1 cup shortening
2 cups sugar
3 eggs
2 cups buttermilk
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon soda
1 teaspoon nutmeg
2 teaspoons baking powder
4 scant cups flour

Cream the shortening and

sugar then blend in the eggs. Add the buttermilk and then the dry ingredients. Bake in a preheated doughnut baker.

Millie Conger, Tecumseh, shares the following:
CRANBERRY PECAN TOFFEE

3/4 cup dried cranberries
1 cup butter
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup sugar
1 tablespoon corn syrup
3 tablespoons water
3/4 cup chopped pecans
1/2 cup chocolate chips
1/4 cup finely chopped pecans for topping

Butter an 8-by-8-inch pan and sprinkle the bottom with the dried cranberries. Set aside. Melt 1 cup butter in a heavy saucepan; add vanilla. Blend in sugar, syrup and water. Cook over medium to high heat until mixture boils and reaches 300 degrees F on candy thermometer. Quickly stir in chopped pecans. Pour mixture into pan. Sprinkle chocolate chips on top and spread when soft. Sprinkle with finely chopped pecans. When cool, remove from pan and repeat with melted chocolate chips and nuts on the opposite side. Cool thoroughly and break into pieces.

HOLIDAY ICEBOX COOKIES

2 cups dried cherries or cranberries
2 cups walnuts or pecans
1 cup plus 2 tablespoons butter
1/3 cup sugar
1/3 cup brown sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 egg
1 2/3 cups flour
3/4 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt

Chop up fruit and nuts and set aside. In a bowl beat butter, sugars, vanilla and egg. In another bowl mix flour, soda and salt. Add fruit and nuts to the flour mixture. Add to the butter and sugar mixture and mix well. Shape into 2 logs about 2 inches in diameter. Wrap in plastic wrap and foil. Refrigerate dough logs overnight.

When ready to bake remove wraps and cut into slices about 1/2-inch thick. Place on greased cookie sheets and bake at 350 degrees for 12 minutes or until lightly browned.

CRANBERRY BUTTER

16-ounce can whole berry cranberry sauce
1/2 cup sugar
3 sticks unsalted butter
In a small pan combine cranberry sauce and sugar. Cook over medium heat for 20 minutes. Remove pan from heat. Add butter, whisking well. Allow mixture to cool for 5 minutes. Pour into small containers and refrigerate to harden. Cool for at least 4 hours in refrigerator before serving. Will keep up to 2 weeks in refrigerator.

Free Online Recipe

Included as part of Grass & Grain's website is a "Free Weekly Recipe." You need not be a subscriber to view this recipe. Go to:

www.grassandgrain.com and at the bottom left click on Our Daily Bread Free Weekly Recipe.

Some recipes will be selected from submissions received from area cooks while others may be suggested favorites. You may also share the recipe with friends and family by clicking on the "email page" button.

This week's recipe is SAVORY PANCAKES from Kay Spoo, Frankfort

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AUCTION SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6 — 10:00 AM

From the South edge of LINCOLN, KS. Go South on 14 Hwy. approx. 7 miles to the Westfall blacktop (Elk Dr.). Then go East on Elk Dr. blacktop approx 7 miles, then South on 260th Rd. 2 miles, then West on Colt Dr. 1/4 mile. From I-70, West of Salina, go to exit 233 (Beverly/Westfall) go North on black top through Westfall, KS, to 260th Rd, then 2 S. on 260th to Colt Dr. then 1/4 W. (watch for signs at 260th.)

TRACTORS ~ MACHINERY ~ FARM RELATED ITEMS, HOUSEHOLD & MISCELLANEOUS

See last week's Grass & Grain for pictures & complete listings.

Auctioneer's Note: Many, many items too numerous to mention. Statements made day of auction take precedence over printed material.



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Auction will be held in Kenwood Hall at the Saline Co. Fairgrounds in SALINA, KANSAS

ANTIQUES/COLLECTIBLES
1927 Coke tray; 3 Gold Nugget ice cream trays; Fairmont lighted ice cream sign; Farm Master Milking Machine Sears sign; Lone Range knife; Gold Medal flower sack; Large collection Oriental items; Oriental doll; Orient Express lamp; figurines; marbles; Roseville 64-5; several pink depression

items; Duncan Miller "Tear Drop" pieces; 1904 milk glass egg; Laurel stemware; bells; Noritake egg; assortment pressed glass; Morning Glory 8 place set silverplate; Fisher Price toys; Match Box toys; 60's dress; picture frames.

HOUSEHOLD & TOOLS
RCA 32" TV; queen bed w/box

spring and mattress; full bed w/box springs & mattress; oak entertainment center; 30's desk; blonde 2 piece bedroom set; kitchen appliances; assortment sewing fabric; assortment Christmas items; small Troy Built rear tiller; Snapper lawn mower; yard tools; several hand tools; Rain Train sprinklers.

See last week's Grass & Grain for complete listings.

Note: We have combined Mrs. Kissick with 3 other ladies who have moved to make a nice auction. The furniture is in good condition.

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Top, 3 Tier Stand, Desk, 2-Drawer File Cabinets, 56" X 36" Desk, Black Office Chair w/ Lift/Tilt Adjust High Back, 57" X 22" Mobile Wood Serving Bar w/Open Shelves In Back, 2-29" Wood Stools, Dresser Lamps, Saddle Lamp, 2-Sylvania 19" TV's, Phillips Console TV, Console Stereo, Fisher VHS Player, Morse AM/FM Receiver w/8 Track Player, Hoover Steam Vacuum, Small Avanti Refrigerator.

GLASSWARE & COLLECTIBLES

Miscellaneous Glassware, Miscellaneous Nick Knacks, Western Pottery #12 Crock (Cracked), Redwing #20 Crock (Cracked), Sessions Trojan Chariot Clock, 2-Humpback Shipping Trunks, 2 Antique Wooden Ironing Boards, 2-Meat Grinders.

VEHICLES, TOOLS & MISCELLANEOUS

(Vehicles sell at 1:00 PM)
2001 Ford F-150 XLT Pick Up 4.2 6 Cyl 5 Sp 4X4 36,400 Miles, 1993 Lincoln Town Car 4 Door (Silver), Loaded, Leather Interior, 20,000 Miles, 1972 Pontiac Catalina 4 Door (White) 400 V8 AT AC 50,094 Miles, 1972 Chevy Custom 20 3/4 Ton Pickup 350 AT (Approx. 126,000 Miles), Troy Built Pony Tiller w/Electric Starter, 16-Rods & Reels, Pictures, Mirrors, Pressure Canner, Canner, Patio Furniture (Oval Metal Table, 2-Metal Rocker Chairs w/Cushions, 26" Round Glass Top Table w/2-Metal Chairs, 20" Square Glass Top Metal Coffee Table, 54" Wood Glider w/Cushion), Treadmill, Space Saver Lifestyle Fitness Trainer 850 Treadmill, AND MANY SURPRISES YET TO BE DISCOVERED

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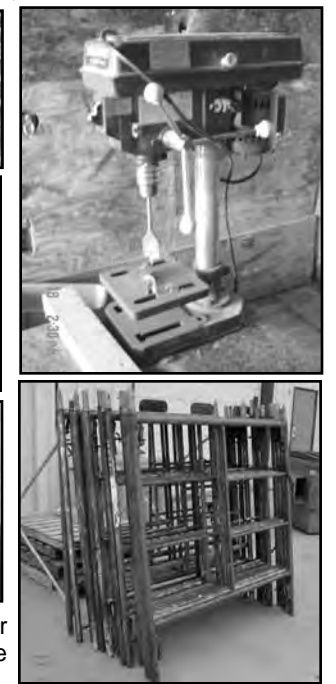


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Wood-burning stoves are an economically friendly solution to heating a home, but without proper operation, the result could be more costly than a high natural gas bill.

"The majority of fires involving wood stoves are a direct result of improper operation," said Scott Frazier, Cooperative Extension energy specialist with Oklahoma State University's Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service offers guidelines from everything from starting a fire to ash removal, to ways to ensure a warm and uneventful winter.

Once the wood stove is installed correctly, open the damper completely. Kindling or paper should be placed over the entire bottom of the box, which will achieve an evenly burning fire. Use of flammable liquids to start a fire can result in explosions and uncontrolled fires.

Slowly add seasoned dry wood to lit kindling, being careful not to smother the fire with too much wood. Once the fire is burning briskly, adjust the draft controls to maintain the desired heat output.

"Stoves are built differently and should be treated accordingly," Frazier said.

New cast-iron parts need to be “seasoned” and should have only small fires built for the first few times to avoid cracking.

“Stoves without an ash pit should have two inches of sand insulating the bottom of the firebox to prevent overheating and an eventual burnout,” Frazier said.

As the fire calms and it is time to refuel, the draft controls should be opened for a couple minutes for the stove pipe and flue to heat up.

"This will increase the draft and should prevent smoke from coming out into the room when the stove door is opened," Frazier said. Wood should then be added and the draft left open until the new wood catches. The new wood will require for readjustment of the controls to the desired setting.

“One of the most common causes of wood stove caused home fires is leaving the fire untended,” Frazier said. “Whenever someone must leave the house while a fire is burning, take the necessary precautions to prevent the possibility of an uncontrolled fire.”

He said the worst danger in leaving a stove burning is that the fire could burn out

of control and overheat the stove, or a spark will escape through a draft inlet. Opening the stove pipe damper and closing the air inlet dampers can avoid both of these scenarios.

Older stoves which are not airtight are much more difficult to control as they have their own hidden air intakes.

"The best thing to do is to make sure the fire has died down before leaving the house," Frazier said. "Allowing a large fire to burn unattended in such a stove is dangerous."

Any combustible material should be at least three feet clear of the stove.

"It's easy to overlook such things as clothes drying, kindling, newspaper, carpets or logs left to dry under the firebox," Frazier said. "All of these things can catch fire from intense heat radiation."

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While ash buildup is typically not a major problem, a stove that is functioning under normal heat output under round-the-clock operation will need to have the ashes removed once every week to 10 days.

Frazier cautions that when removing ashes, keep in mind that they may still be hot and should not be shoveled into a paper bag, cardboard box, plastic container or any other combustible material.

"There are many cases of home fires which have started when hot embers in disposed ashes ignited the combustible container in which they were placed," he said. "Always remove and store ashes in a non-combustible container, and then store the container on a noncombustible floor or on the ground, well away from flammable materials, until final disposal."

Also, be careful about dumping the ashes from these containers. Field fires have been started from ashes that were several days old.

Pretzel snack developed by two students wins first place

What do you get when you take a soft pretzel and fill it with tangy fruit?

It's the Fretzel and it's the recipe for success for two graduate students from Kansas State University.

Katie Krusemark, Atchison, and Katie Marston, Manhattan, both master's students in food science, took home first place and a \$3,000 prize with their creation, the Fretzel, in a student product development competition sponsored at the recent American Association of Cereal Chemists international meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Krusemark and Marston competed against 12 other university teams in developing a new grain-based food product. The event sponsors included ADM Ogilvie, Caravan Ingredients, Cargill Inc., ConAgra Food Ingredients, Frito-Lay, General Mills Inc., Kellogg Co., Starquest F.O.O.D. Consulting LLC and TIC Gums.

The Fretzel is a whole-grain soft pretzel with an ex-

otic fruit filling. It comes frozen and has to be baked. The creators say the pretzels are not only delicious, but healthy as well.

"We were interested in creating a snack that was both healthy and convenient," Krusemark said. "Fretzels are a multigrain soft pretzel filled with dried pineapple, dried mango and walnuts."

Marston and Krusemark tried other combinations before deciding on their exotic filling.

"When testing our product with potential customers, our panelists wanted a more exotic flavor than just strawberry or apple," Marston said. "After trying several combinations, we decided on the mango and pineapple. Walnuts were added in the mixture for texture and their omega-3 health benefits."

The idea for the Fretzel began in fall 2007 in the food product development class Krusemark and Marston were in, taught by Fadi Ara-

mouni, professor of food science, and Kelly Getty, assistant professor of food science. Aramouni and Getty also served as advisers to the students as they prepared for the competition.

"This past summer, Dr. Aramouni pushed us to enter the competition since he thought our concept was unique and different," Marston said. "Katie and I spent all summer tweaking the formula and designing our presentation for the contest."

Krusemark and Marston are ready to take their product to the next level. Fretzels will be featured in the January-February issue of the journal Cereal Foods World.

"We hope this article can spark some interest in the industry for further development of the Fretzel,"

Marston said.

The students said they learned about creating and developing a product and had a great time doing it.

"Katie and I both had a lot of fun meeting and interacting with other food scientists from all over the world at the international conference," Marston said.

Krusemark, the daughter of Dan and Mary Ann Kruse-

mark, Atchison, is studying border security, food safety and security, and trade policy through K-State's Frontier program. Her studies are funded by the National Center for Food Protection and Defense.

Marston, the daughter of Twig and Mary Marston, formerly of Manhattan, would like to be a food scientist for a major food company.

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Bellwood, Nebraska Farmer

"I enjoyed going to the show. This is a good time of the year for me to buy equipment because I need to make some purchases by the end of the year. I found the equipment that I needed and made a purchase."
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1:00-1:50 "Crop Insurance Strategies for Growing Forward", Farm Credit Services of America
2:00-2:50 "Revolutionary In-Bin Grain Moisture Cable", IntelliAir

Thursday Seminars:

10:00-10:50 "Market Update and Outlook", Stewart-Peterson Group
11:00-11:50 "Crop Insurance Strategies for Growing Forward", Farm Credit Services of America
12:00-12:50 "Managing Profitability in Volatile Times", Russell Consulting
1:00-1:50 "Leasing Solutions for Rural America", Farm Credit Services of America
2:00-2:50 "Revolutionary In-Bin Grain Moisture Cable", IntelliAir
3:00-3:50 "Managing Profitability in Volatile Times", Russell Consulting



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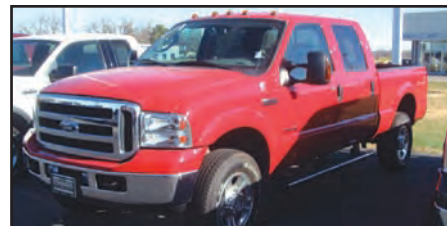
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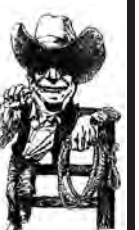
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Hey Neighbor For The Love Of Horses

By Frank J. Buchman

Small Horses Offer Big Benefits

Miniature Horses are a really big deal to the recently crowned 2009 Shetland-Miniature-Pony Queen.

Although the horses may be small in stature, they are intelligent, athletic, beautiful and quite diversely usable animals rapidly increasing in popularity throughout the country, according to the new queen Shaylan Ennis of Painted Valley Miniatures, Paola.

"While we can't ride our Miniatures, we participate in shows throughout the country in halter, obstacle and driving classes as well as a number of other events," Ennis clarified.

Additionally, the high-quality horses, which must be 38 inches or under in height, have retained (and often increased in) value, while several large horse breeds have recently found economic hardship, Ennis pointed out.

Furthermore, Miniatures are more economical to own, requiring less acreage and feedstuffs compared to their larger counterparts, she added. The breed offers an opportunity for children as well as adults, including

those with handicaps, to own, care for and show a horse. "Miniatures are especially nice as therapeutic animals," Ennis said.

Actually, Ennis, 20, daughter of Brad and Robin Ennis, serves three breeds. She explained, "As the 2009 queen, I am representing the American Miniature Horse Registry in addition to the American Shetland Pony Club and the American Show Pony Registry."

To further complicate her representation, there are two Shetland groups: the Classic American Shetland Pony and the Modern American Shetland Pony.

Crowned in early November at Branson, Mo., during the registry's national con-

vention, Ennis emphasized, "The American Shetland Pony Club is the oldest horse registry in the United States. This year's convention celebrated the 120th anniversary of the organization."

"The American Shetland Pony club was formed as a registry to keep pedigree information for the Shetlands that were being imported from Europe at that time," Ennis continued. Largely for economical efficiency, the club has been expanded to include the separate breeds under one organization's leadership.

While a newcomer to small horse breeds might be easily confused about the various names, titles and

differentiations, Ennis, as part of her queen duties, can readily enumerate the specific characteristics, usages and importance of each registry.

"The Classic Shetland resembles those which originally came to this country in the 1800s. They might be considered more rugged and draft-looking in type," Ennis described. "Modern Shetlands are more refined, a different quality with a Saddle Horse type appearance, typically being higher-stepping and more animated."

There continue to be breeders of each distinct type, and show classes cater to the variations. "Maximum height for a Shetland is 46 inches, and they are shown in many events, including being ridden by youth," Ennis related.

What are considered the most conformation-desirable Miniature Horses today closely resemble an Arabian horse in reduced size, Ennis compared. "They are very classic-looking, athletic-moving horses, with a world of ability," she contended.

Ennis differentiated that there are two Miniature Horse registries. "I represent the American Miniature Horse Registry, but there is a second organization called the American Miniature Horse Association," she stated. "There are similarities between the groups, and yet also differences, even though some horses can be dually recorded in both registries."

"My horses are only recorded in the AMHR. I only compete in AMHR events, and only represent that group," Ennis verified. One specific difference in the groups is that AMHR has an "A" division for horses up to 34 inches, and a "B" cate-

gory for horses up to 38 inches in height. AMHA registers horses only up to 34 inches.

Among the AMHR classes are halter, obstacle, jumping, driving and costume for adults and youth, but there are also lead-line classes in which youngsters weighing 50 pounds or less can ride Miniatures being led by an adult.

The Show Pony Registry is for ponies 14.2 hands, or 58 inches, and under. "In addition to size limitations, eligible ponies must have one parent registered in a breed association," Ennis relayed. "These ponies are used for young riders to get experience in Western and English



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AUCTION

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Note: Doane has been in business for 25 years, there are a lot of items.

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1928 Model "A" Ford Murray Town car, complete & restorable; 1931 Ford Model "A" sedan body; 1952 Cadillac 2 door hardtop coupe Deville, complete & runs; 1960 Chevrolet station wagon; 1965 Chrysler 300, 2 door, hardtop, complete & restorable; 1950 Ford Club Coupe, restorable & parts; 1967 Dodge Cornett 2 door car for parts.

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speakers, car amps, boosters & etc.; hub caps; center caps & trim rings; Reece receiver hitches; assort. of engine parts ie: G.M. heads; starters, carbs., manifolds, alternators, PU bumpers, battery chargers, jump start boxes & battery cables; lg. variety of new car & truck take out new bucket seats; 8 pickup bed liners; pickup top; Deluxe Job box, metal w/slide trays & alum. rack for pickup; lots of other car parts & car related items; assort. of misc.

JACKS & TIRE EQUIPMENT
Air operated gray bumper jack; low air & hyd. front end jack; 10 ton Walker floor jack; Coats 40-40SA air operated tire machine; stand up tire machine; Static tire balancer; assort. of car jacks.

COLLECTIBLES
Budweiser clock light Clydesdale horse sign; 2 Imperial #117 wood heating stove; good assort. of metal die cast cars & trucks; good assort. of NASCAR items.

INDUSTRIAL ROLLER TRACK
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H & H - 18 ft. metal car trailer w/dove tail & ramps, tandem axle.

MISCELLANEOUS
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riding classes as well as in fence and driving competitions."

IN THE BEGINNING

"I've always had an interest in horses, and we have pictures of my dad leading me on a pony when I was just six months old," Ennis revealed. "I tell him that I've been hooked on horses ever since, but it took a lot longer to convince my parents I needed a horse."

A family friend, Chrissy Cumpton, let Ennis ride one of her Paint Horses for fun and in pleasure classes at shows, but it still took more

time for her to get one of her own. "Finally, when I was 11, my parents let Chrissy give me a Miniature Horse named Cumpton's Co-coamo," Ennis remembered.

That beginning proved to be a perfect foundation for Ennis' future. "Co-coamo is still our main Miniature Horse today. One could say we were just lucky, because Co-coamo has proven to be an outstanding horse to show in every class," Ennis credited. "Even my dad has gotten into showing him."

But lots of time and patience have been put into

the 34-inch-tall, gray and white Pinto overo-marked gelding to get him to the level he is today.

"Co-coamo was just a weanling when we got him, and my sister Ashley (now 19) and I did all of the training," Ennis confirmed. "We didn't really know what we were doing but it worked out fine, mainly because Co-coamo is such a good horse."

Active as a member of the Paola FFA Chapter, Ennis, a local and district leader, received the horse proficiency award, but it wasn't until three years ago that she actually became competitive with her Miniature.

"I entered a fun show sponsored by the Kansas Miniature Horse Club, and another horse owner asked me to exhibit their Miniature at the Nationals," Ennis recalled. "That was the beginning, and I've been showing in AMHR shows ever since."

"My sister doesn't have much interest in Miniatures now, but my dad has become very active. He showed Co-coamo to be reserve champion out of 19 entries in am-

ateur gentlemen's country pleasure driving at the 2007 AMHR Nationals in Tulsa," Ennis complimented. "That has really been the highlight of our show career so far."

Co-coamo's success as an all-around horse is most notable. He has been shown to awards in halter, showmanship, costume, obstacle in-hand and with-cart, and over-the-fence classes.

"His best event, though, has to be the cart competition. Co-coamo really enjoys that, and we sure like to drive him," Ennis credited. She has also collected a number of country pleasure driving awards with Co-coamo.

Costume classes are also especially fun for the family, and Ennis shared that both she and her dad have collected awards with Co-coamo in those events.

A second Miniature dapple gelding called Mickey was purchased by the family in 2006. "Mickey does well in halter, and we are using him as our single pleasure driving horse."

A junior majoring in accounting at Ottawa University, Ennis is uncertain of her career, but she's positive that her future will include Miniature Horses. "I will likely be involved in agriculture in some form of economics," she related.

"Whatever, I will have Miniature Horses. I would like to start breeding and raising a few Miniatures, and also increase my showing, maybe more for other owners, too."

Near-term, Ennis will be

even busier than usual. "I will be going to many shows throughout the year to promote the Shetland-Miniature-Pony registry and work with youth. I'll also be making appearances at other equine-related events around the country, informing people about the many attributes of these fine small horses," she stressed.

The combined registries are located in Morton, Ill., and can be contacted for additional information at 309-263-4044.



Shaylan Ennis, recently crowned 2009 Shetland-Miniature-Pony Queen, is with her parents, Robin and Brad Ennis of Paola, at the coronation ceremonies during the national convention of the breed registry.

LAND AUCTION

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10 — 10:30 AM

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wheels; little red wagon; old wooden riding toy; miscellaneous advertising items; Tonka sand loader; Structo dump truck; Union Pacific teddy bear; other Vintage toys.

FURNITURE: Storage chest with cubby holes; 7 drawer Waterfall desk; dressers; Bentwood chairs; newer lighted curio cabinet; tea cart; wardrobe; steamer trunk; metal cupboard; 2 lyre back chairs; 2 chrome and red vinyl chairs; 1960's dinette table; antique beds; pattern back chairs; rocking chair; wash stand; 2 Harvest tables; old trunks; desk; 4 oak school chairs; 4 wicker chairs.

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Songdogs and the never-lonely night

A noise and I was awake, alert to any sound other than the faint humming of the clock. For a moment I laid still and then shifted to bring my good ear off the pillow, and then listened some more, and

hearing nothing began a slow drift into sleep. When I heard it again, this time sharper, a yip, almost hesitant, experimental, followed by another. Behind the house, songdogs tuning up. Of late

they've been practicing for the cold months when their voices travel the farthest on icy moonbeams, echoing in the nether hours. It seemed I could distinguish several individuals by their tones, and one sound-

ed young and inexperienced. Yip yip yip, c'mon let's get it on, yip yip, join me, oh all right but only for a minute, yipyipyrowr-rowrrowrooooo hhhhhokay okay that's enough I'm hungry let's go kill something yip yip yiii. Yip. Knock it off. Yip. I wondered how our rabbit was taking it. Sheba, our black Angora bunny, is tolerant toward most things but carries an intense dislike for bobcats and coyotes. Several times we've been sitting together on the floor in the computer room when a bobcat cranked up its eerie yowling, sending Sheba bolting for her cage. I have to admit that the first time I heard it my own hackles were raised, and

for a moment I was a cave-man quailing at the nocturnal challenge of a sabertooth tiger. We consider ourselves modern but our genes know better. For a second I thought of going downstairs to check on her and then decided against it. She was probably buried in her cage, safe from all enemies real or imagined, and the coyotes weren't that close anyway. Sleep, when it came, was the usual medley of nightmares, with disjointed groans issuing from the dark. Three a.m., the alarm razzing me out of the toasty blankets and down the

stairs to the coffee pot and its life-inducing properties. Sheba was waiting, ears high, wanting her morning broccoli and kiss. I knelt on the floor and rubbed my face on hers and she arced her back like a cat and ground her teeth in that odd manner that denotes bliss, and then I was out the door to work. Behind me the house was a blocky angular shape eclipsing the stars, empty save for the rabbit, and would be empty was well on my return, this being the every-other-week that Lori works nights.

Continued on page 13

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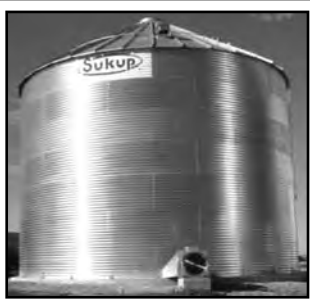
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Continued from page 12

It's a lonely existence without her and I'm still struggling for acceptance. I rarely know what to do without her so I do as little as possible, usually just reading a book and rubbing Sheba. She curls up against me and dozes off into a daze, a melted pile of bun-fur. After a while I go to bed and then rise the following day and do it all over again. At least I'm catching up on my reading, or I am until I fall asleep in the middle of a sentence. Which tends to happen with distressing regularity.

If not for Sheba I wonder how I would handle the hollow hours. I was reminded of an incident that occurred several weeks ago when I photographed an elderly lady and her cat for a Christmas card.

Chester commanded her lap with obvious relish while she doted and cooed and fussed over him with a child's grace, so that even as I watched the years melted away and I saw a young girl playing with her first kitten. These are not pets — an ugly word with an uncertain origin — but companions, who by their acceptance allow us to go beyond our own selfish impulses and become who we were meant to be. With Sheba, as with the woman and her cat, I am never fully alone, even as the star-silvered fields and the shadowed recesses of the woods possess their own untethered companions, the soft padding footsteps, the tentative howls and luminous eyes, the fog of breath like exhalations of light, the wild and attendant night.

U.S. heading to deregulate corn for ethanol use

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Agriculture Department is moving to make it easier to grow genetically engineered corn for ethanol production, despite fears among safety advocates that some might end up in human food.

The agency is seeking public comments on a request to deregulate corn that is designed to produce a special enzyme, making it easier to convert into ethanol.

In its draft environmental assessment released earlier this month, the department's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service concluded that the corn, developed by Syngenta Seeds Inc., is safe.

"The scientific evidence indicates that there are unlikely to be any environmental, human health or food safety concerns associated with the GE corn," the

agency said in a written statement Monday.

Bill Freese, science policy analyst at the Center for Food Safety, says the alpha-amylase gene inserted into the corn could trigger allergies in people exposed to the crop.

"They intend it to be used just for ethanol, but it's also going to end up in the food supply," Freese said. "This is the first crop proposed for

industrial use, and in a widely used food crop, we need to be extremely cautious."

The department will review any comments submitted by the Jan. 20, 2009, deadline to determine whether its safety assessment should change.

Demand for biofuels like ethanol is soaring because of federal mandates requiring the United States to

use 9 billion gallons of alternative fuel annually by 2009.

About 30 percent of the nation's corn crop goes to ethanol production.

The genetically engineered corn would help ethanol makers lower production costs, said Anne Burt, spokeswoman for Switzerland's Syngenta AG, the parent corporation of Syngenta Seeds.

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Flammability of Christmas trees not such a combustible topic

They are fixtures on YouTube and newscasts: Clips of Christmas trees bursting into flames and ruining somebody's holiday season.

Foresters with Oklahoma State University's Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources have come together to shed light on the difference between fact and fiction.

"Christmas trees are safe," said Craig McKinley, OSU Cooperative Extension forestry expert. "A Christmas tree cannot cause a fire any more than your sofa, couch or waste basket." McKinley said oftentimes in the video clip warnings, a "live" tree is set aside and dried for more than a month before ignited.

"The truth of the matter is that if you take a freshly cut Virginia pine and stick it in a stand and in water, you'll have a hell of a time getting that thing to burn," said Chuck Tauer, OSU forest genetics professor and a Christmas tree grower.

McKinley recalled a public service announcement on the news in another state in which the news reporter had a Fraser fir and tried to light it with a match. When the tree would not go up in flames, the reporter then switched to using a small torch.

"She couldn't get the thing lit, and you could see they cut the film, and then 'woomph,' they got this flame," he said.

The reporter then faced the camera and said, "Remember, a small spark such as this could destroy your Christmas." McKinley

could not believe what he was witnessing and wanted to clear Christmas trees of any wrongdoing.

McKinley said Christmas fires are caused by trees only an incrementally small percentage of the time. "Christmas is a time of joy, with lots of presents and people in the house; it is a human interest story when a house burns," he said. "TV likes fire."

These fire stories have slowed in the United States since the use of lit candles on Christmas trees has stopped. That tradition continues in parts of Europe,

which has Christmas trees with much more space between branches to allow for that type of decoration.

"We've learned that candles on trees are not a good idea, even if they do it in Europe," McKinley said. "Trees can be a fuel source; so can your sofa, trash can and many other things. Trees don't cause fires and they're not inherently dangerous."

Aside from lit candles in Christmas trees, much concern had been raised in the past about the temperature of Christmas tree light. That is not a significant threat thanks to new manufacturing regulations on lights.

"The lights these days are not hot anymore," Tauer said. "That might be why Christmas tree fires are such a concern to people, because they used to be made differently."

With that said, McKinley

did offer a warning about Christmas trees. "The biggest danger you are going to have with a Christmas tree is getting gouged in the eye with a needle," he said.

While Christmas trees are safe if taken care of properly, McKinley advises everyone to be smart and use caution about keeping open flames away from trees, and anything else in the house.



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December 3 — Lyon Co. grassland at Olpe for Daniel Pape. Auctioneers: Joe Biggs & Associates Auctions.

December 4 — Shawnee Co. Land at Topeka for Anna Jean Filkins. Auctioneers: Beatty & Wischropp.

December 4 — Complete dispersal at Cedar Point for Chuck Magathan-Silver Creek Dairy, Inc. Auctioneers: Burton-Fellers Sales.

December 5 — Farm sale, household, collectibles, guns, coins at Burdick & Herington for C.L. Booth. Auctioneers: Bob Kichaefer, Dave Bures.

December 5 — Land auction at Beattie for Kathie Rueger. Auctioneers: Olmsted & Olmsted Auctions.

December 5 — Lincoln Co. native & expired CRP pastureland at Lincoln, Ks. for Kathy A. Weatherley. Auctioneers: Victor Brothers Auction & Realty-Frank Princ.

December 5 — Tractors, combines, skid loaders, balers, planters, tillage equip., misc. farm equip. at Stratford, Wisc. for Central Wisconsin Cooperative. Auctioneers: Gehling Auctions.

December 6 — Nemaha County Land at Seneca for Bill Nordhus. Auctioneers: Seneca Realty, Mike Kuckelman.

December 6 — Jefferson County Farmland at Nortonville for Dan & Karen Ruhlman. Auctioneers: Pangel Inc. Realty & Auctions.

December 6 — Tools, parts, office equipment & misc. at Salina for Ross Truck Line. Auctioneers: Roger A. Johnson & Sons.

December 6 — Tractors, machinery, farm related items, household & misc. at Lincoln for Clyde & Barbara & Stan Beck. Auctioneers: Post Rock

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December 6 — Late fall machinery auction at Clay Center. Auctioneers: Mugler Auction Service, LLC.

December 6 — Collector cars, die cast cars, tools & memorabilia at Belleville for Sells Enterprises, Doane Sells. Auctioneers: Larry Lagasse Auction & Real Estate.

December 6 — Farm equip., trucks, trailers, wagons, livestock equip., hay, tools & equipment S. of Fairbury, NE for Dale Duis. Auctioneers: Kettelhut Auctions.

December 6 — Forklift, machinist, shop equip., office equip., furniture & misc. at Lawrence for Mastercraft. Auctioneers: Elston Auctions.

December 6 — Vintage glassware, kitchen items, furniture, antiques, collectibles & misc. at Louisville for Ruth Stalcup, Larry Winkler & Carl Brothers. Auctioneers: Raymond Pageler Auctions.

December 6 — Real Estate & tools at Clay Center for Amy Affleck & Harry Affleck. Auctioneers: Raymond Bott Realty & Auction.

December 6 — Farm, manufacturing equipment & steel at Hesston for Agco Corporation Surplus. Auctioneers: Schmidt Auctions.

December 8 — Coffey Co. grassland, grass, timber & pond at Waverly for Russell L. Kistner Estate. Auctioneers: Joe Biggs & Associates Auctions.

December 9 — Harvey Co. land at Sedgwick. Auctioneers: Farmers National Co. Auctions.

December 10 — Land auction N. of Axtell for Jean & Keith Deters. Auctioneers: Olmsted & Olmsted Auctions.

December 10 — Rice Co.

land at Bushton. Auctioneers: Farmers National Co. Auctions.

December 10 — Meat processing equipment at Asaria. Auctioneers: Blomquist Auctions.

December 11 — Tractors, collector tractors, farm machinery, balers, trucks at Mission, S.D. for Assman Implement. Auctioneers: Gehling Auctions.

December 13 — Household goods, glassware, antiques, tools at Clay Center for Wayne & Gloria Reed Estate. Auctioneers: Kretz, Hauserman, Bloom Auction Service.

December 13 — Household at Abilene. Auctioneers: Allan Thompson & Ron Shivers Auctions.

December 14 — Automobile, antiques & household at Waterville for Margaret Anderson. Auctioneers: Raymond Bott, Lee Holtmeier & Luke Bott.

December 15 — Tractors, combine, heads, combines, heads, vehicles, trailers, machinery, tools, livestock equip. & irrigation equip. at Ohiowa, NE for Gary Korbelik. Auctioneers: Dick Schoenholz Auctions.

December 16 — Tractors, combines, harvest, hay & farm equipment, sprayer & Ro-Gator, excavator, lawn mowers & trailers at Manhattan. Auctioneers: Stock Auctions.

December 17 — Tractors, harvest equipment, farm machinery, trucks & trailers, grain bins at Manhattan for Bill &

Connie Kauer. Auctioneers: Stock Auctions.

December 19 — Russell Co. land at Russell for Gene Vopat, Caleb Vopat, Cassie Flock. Auctioneers: Victor Brothers-Frank Princ Auctions.

December 20 — Complete liquidation at El Dorado for Grandma's Floral & Gifts. Auctioneers: Chuck Korte Real Estate & Auctions.

January 1, 2009 — 24th annual New Year's Day consignment auction at Lyndon. Auctioneers: Harley Gerdes Auctions.

January 15 — Gray Co. real estate, horse facilities, arena, grain handling facility, shop & machine storage, livestock feeding facility, cattle pens at Cimarron for Doll, Miller & McNiece Families. Auctioneers: Schrader Real Estate & Auction.

February 11 — Cloud & Republic Co. land at Concordia for Karl Morgan Estate. Auctioneers: Larry Lagasse Auction & Real Estate.

February 14 — Black Hereford sale at Leavenworth for J&N Ranch.

March 14 — 23rd Annual Concordia Optimist Club Consignment Sale at Concordia.

March 21 — Farm Sale Southwest of Concordia for Bedford Malmquist Estate. Auctioneers: Larry Lagasse Auction & Real Estate.

March 28 — Registered Angus bull & female production sale W. of Topeka for Mission Valley Ranch.

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Should you? If you are in a business that sells and manufactures an American product, then you certainly hope the rest of the country prefers to buy something "Made in America." And, in these hard economic times, buying American will benefit your neighbor's job security as well.

Granted, origin is not always clear. For instance, Toyota's headquarters is in Tokyo. It's listed on the Japanese stock exchange. It is a Japanese company. They are called foreign cars. Yet they have a manufacturing plant in Alabama! Ford Motor Co. headquarters is in Dearborn, Michigan. It is on the New York Stock Exchange. Henry Ford invented it! Yet the Ford F150 pickup is built in Mexico!

Can both or either be labeled American under COOL regulations? I suspect there will eventually have to be 'variations' of COOL. One of the difficulties implementing the 'American Label' on beef, for example, is that packing houses process Mexican cattle that come into Texas feedlots, and use beef shipped to their plant in refrigerated trucks from packing houses in Canada.

In one day's processing it is common to hang these carcasses side by side, for ground beef to be commingled and the specific origin of each to be lost. Maybe we could establish categories like, Pure American Cool, Quasi American Cool or Possibly American Cool. It would depend on the percentage of U.S.-raised beef in the mix. Other factors to be considered would be the amount of Canadian grain in the ration, the number of Mexican cowboys on the ranch, or the presence of Irish whiskey behind the seat of the feedlot manager's pickup! A lot of details remain to be worked out.

There was a restaurant in Arkansas that offered squirrel stew. It was quite popular and was always crowded. One customer inquired of the owner how they could find so many squirrels?

"Well," said the owner, "We do have to cut it with a little mule meat."

But," he said, "only ten percent."

"Really," said the customer. "I guess that's fair."

"Yup," said the owner, "One mule for every ten squirrels!"

But I wonder, are they American squirrels?

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Feedyards see sharp decline in cattle numbers

WICHITA (AP) — At a time when the consumer appetite for beef is waning amid the economic downturn, the number of cattle going into feedlots in Kansas, Nebraska and

Farmers slice into market

HULL, Iowa (AP) — A pair of Iowa dairy farmers is slicing into the nation's cheese market by turning milk from their 7,000 head herd into 80 million pounds of cheese a year.

Shep and Natalie Ysselstein, owners of Green Meadows Foods LLC, wanted to put all that milk to good use. They say the plant, near Hull in northwest Iowa, is one of the newest and largest cheese facilities in the nation.

A Iowa University study suggests the plant will bring \$440 million to the region.

Officials at Green Meadows say they plan to double production by 2010, creating more jobs and the need for more dairy cows in the area.

Tim Czmowski, Green Meadows general manager, said the operation will use about 250,000 gallons of milk a day to make the cheese.

He said the company plans to get additional milk from farmers in Iowa, South Dakota, Nebraska and Minnesota.

"We'll need 40,000 more cows in this region, anybody that would like to grow their dairy farm or build a new one, we'd love to talk to them," Czmowski said.

across the nation also has taken a steep dive.

The latest cattle-on-feed statistics come at a time of high input costs for fattening the beef and deep losses for the nation's cattle-feeding industry.

On Monday, the Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service reported that the state had 2.23 million head of cattle in its large feedyards as of Nov. 1. That number is down 8 percent from the same month a year ago, but up 3 percent from last month.

Cattlemen during October also placed 15 percent fewer cattle on feed, meaning the available slaughter supply will remain tight in the coming months. The number of animals leaving the feedyard for slaughter was down 12 percent in October, compared with the same month last year in Kansas.

The Nebraska inventory of cattle on feed as of Nov. 1 was down 4 percent from last year and 5 percent from 2006.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Statistics Service says feedlots in the state with capacities of 1,000 or more contained

nearly 2.31 million cattle on Nov. 1.

Placements during October totaled 590,000 head, down 5 percent from 2007 but up 5 percent from 2006.

At Hitch II feeders, assistant manager Dale Nicodemus said the feedyard near Garden City, Kan., is running at less than three-fourths full. The feedyard has a capacity of 45,000 head.

"At this time of year that is significant. Most of the time we are jammed full at this time of the year," Nicodemus said.

Some of the smaller feedyards — those with a capacity of fewer than 1,000 head of cattle — are empty and for sale, he said.

"Normally we are very full this time of year. The fall run was very small this year — almost nonexistent," Nicodemus said.

He blamed the smaller numbers of cattle coming into the yard in part to a wetter year in Kansas that has allowed cattle to remain on grazing longer and to drought conditions elsewhere that have forced producers to cut the size of their herds.

The Kansas numbers were reflective of trends nationwide.

The U.S. inventory of cattle and calves on feed totaled 11 million head on Nov. 1, down 7 percent from the same month last year. Placements nationwide during October were down nearly 11 percent below 2007 to 2.44 million cattle, while the number of animals leaving the feedyard for slaughter were down 3 percent from last year to 1.81 million cattle.

While cattle supplies have tightened a little more than the industry was expecting before the report came out, the big story remains what is happening to the demand side, said James Mintert, a

Kansas State University economist.

Industry experts say the economic downturn may continue to affect the demand for beef, particularly more expensive cuts such as tenderloin, as cash-strapped consumers turn to cheaper cuts or to chicken or pork. Prices for tenderloin at the beginning of July were running about the same as a year ago. Two weeks ago, they were 28 percent to 32 percent below last year. They recovered slightly in the past week and are now running about 12 percent to 13 percent below a year ago.

"That is indicative at the wholesale level of buyers backing away from high-valued cuts because they were

concerned about their ability to market to consumers in an environment where everybody is worried about their income, everybody is worried about what is happening to their asset values," Mintert said.

Those cattle industry concerns also are reflected in the futures market. Since Labor Day, live cattle futures have dropped \$20 a hundredweight because of concerns about domestic and export demand, Mintert said.

"We hope that demand can rebound when the economy starts to grow again," said Todd Domer, spokesman for the Kansas Livestock Association. "Nobody knows when and if we've reached bottom yet."

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