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Farm carves niche providing families holiday memories

By **Beth Gaines-Riffel**,
Editor

With the nip in the air and the carols playing in the background, one could definitely find some Christmas spirit around the little farm in Butler County. But when you look around and note the beautiful greenery and the majestic trees growing around the small barn, you realize that this farm is all about Christmas.

Susan and Bob Grelinger moved to their small farmstead in 1979. Both had non-agriculture careers — his with the aircraft industry and hers in education — but they wanted to do something with the farm.

Bob, raised on a working, diversified farm near Beloit — was a true farmer at heart, happiest with his hands in the dirt, according to Susan. After recognizing that traditional farm crops wouldn't pay many bills on the ten acres that they owned, it was decided that a tree farm might be a possibility. They also ran a few cows, which their children showed when they were active in 4-H.

So, with a little determination they set off to establish their farm, known as Windy Knoll, as a Christmas tree farm.

In 1980 they planted 30 trees, and surprisingly, even working with little knowledge about growing trees, they had remarkable success in getting the trees to survive.

"The next year we went to the growers meeting and learned about trimming roots before you plant," Susan recounted. She continued that the couple did as they were advised.

"We had a terrible year and lost a lot of trees," Bob admitted. "Sometimes you get started with just dumb luck."

Their first year of selling trees, 1986, they managed to sell ten trees to friends and neighbors.

They were encouraged at the acceptance, and Bob re-

counted that the next year, when walking the fields, they decided that there were 100 trees that were of the quality and size that they wanted to sell.

"And that year we sold all 100," he said.

Like many family farms, Windy Knoll is no different. The work is done largely by hand, with little automation, and completed mostly by family members.

Before Bob and Susan retired from their first careers, they would work all day and then come home to the farm chores and work until after dark, according to Bob. "We'd work at it until 10 o'clock at night, go to bed and do it all again the next day."

The couple have two grown children, Ryan and his wife Amy and Trista Gish and husband Todd. Between the two, there are four grandchildren to round out the clan.

"They all work with us," Susan explained. In addition to everyone helping during the selling season, each also helps with the annual maintenance and chores that must be done to keep the tree farm growing — literally.

A crop of trees is not unlike any other agricultural crop. It must be planted in a timely fashion, weeds and diseases controlled, cultivated, and prepared for harvest.

As soon as the Christmas season is complete, the next cropping season is begun according to the couple. The Grelingers don't grind down their stumps in the field, but rather cut them level with the ground. They take precautions so that the stumps from the recently cut trees don't become a walking hazard, or protrude up to cause issues with the mower, as the field is maintained during the spring and summer.

The planting, which is critical to the survivability of the tree, is done as early as possible. Bob noted that they find the spring-planted trees seem to do the best. "We plant a lot more than we harvest," he added. Amy, Todd's wife, helps with the planting chores as well. Many of the trees are sourced from Texas, Michigan and K-State.

Controlling insect-borne diseases with appropriate measures also helps to improve the stands of trees that the couple raise. During the dormant season, sprays are applied to keep the trees healthy and growing.

Catering to their clients, they grow a wide variety of trees, with the most popular being the Scotch Pine, followed by the Virginia Pine. They also grow White Pines and Austrian Pines. "Just like all farming, you've got to be diversified," Bob said.



Susan and Bob Grelinger are in the midst of their "harvest" at Windy Knoll Farm in Butler County. The business has grown and expanded and provides a unique experience for families in the Wichita metro area.

Following this belief they started adding pre-cut trees to their offering, trucking in trees from other regions which don't grow as well in Kansas. They include a selection of firs.

According to the couple, the pre-cut tree addition resulted initially from a concern early on about not having enough trees to sell to the public.

"We didn't want to advertise and then not have any trees available to sell," Bob said.

The pre-cut trees also give customers a "quick" option of getting a fresh tree if the weather is bitterly cold or rainy.

"We display them beside the barn, where it is protected from the wind," Susan said. Bob agreed, noting that it could be much colder out in the field.

When the heat of July has many folks running for the swimming pool, Bob and Susan are already thinking Christmas. Each tree must be sheared — not only to give it the classic Christmas tree shape, but to improve the quality of the tree overall.

"Shearing the tree back makes for a denser, fuller, higher-quality tree," Bob explained, holding his hands to illustrate the 12-18 inches that is cut off the tree to promote the budding. "We want to be known for growing high-quality trees."

While there are some mechanical means to trim trees, including some rotary cutters, Bob instead prefers a machete-style knife to shear his trees.

The trees that are nearing saleable sized receive plenty of attention, but Bob also leaves a few "natural" to give their customers yet another choice.

Those trees that don't make the grade for a Christmas tree are also left natural — with the end result the branches being cut and fashioned into wreaths and grave covers — both items which are growing in popularity with their customers.

Susan and Amy do most of the work building the wreaths in December. They offer a variety of sizes — including very large display wreaths which are 36 or 48 inches in diameter.

The Grelingers have worked hard to provide a simple but authentic farm experience. Currently they don't offer a hay-rack ride, but do have a couple of photo backdrops where families can document their visit to the farm.

"We have an antique sleigh," Susan explained.

Families can either cut their own tree, or it will be cut for them. They also offer services such as shaking and netting and loading the tree into the vehicle.

"We really strive to provide a lot of service," Susan said with a smile.

Those who visited are treated to homemade cider and snacks and even coloring books for the children to complete their visit.

Keeping costs down are critical to the overall profitability of the operation, according to the couple. While there is a fine line between having enough help to serve the customers and too much help eating up the bottom line, it is something that the Grelingers have worked hard to address. In addition to the family members that pitch in, Susan noted that they have been able to assemble a crew that works well. "We have had some kids that worked for us for

seven or eight years," she explained. Because of their emphasis on customer service, she noted that not everyone is cut out for the work. "They have to have a personality and really fit into our operation," she added.

While Christmas hasn't changed much over the years, the way that they reach their customers has. While they have relied heavily in the past on the word of mouth, repeat customers and an effective mailing list to announce the opening of the season, they are moving to more electronic means of communicating. "You've got to be on the internet," she stated flatly. "That's where the generation Y kids all get their information." Again, the work is kept in the family as Todd maintains the website for the farm. Susan pointed out in the retail area they had added a credit/debit machine to serve their clients' needs as well. "You've got to keep up with the times."

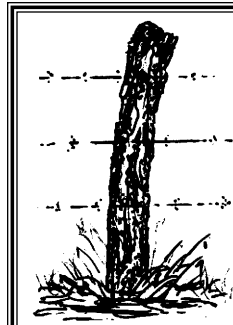
The farm opened for the season the weekend after Thanksgiving, although because of a tagging service that they offer, nearly 50 families picked their tree prior to the holiday and will cut it at their leisure.

Through the years they have developed a loyal following with generations of families coming to the farm to find the perfect Christmas tree. "It's fun to see those that come out with two or more generations," Susan said with a quick smile. "That's really what we enjoy."

So through the month of December, the Grelingers will be hoping for a good harvest — just like any other farm family.



Jolly old Santa Claus greets visitors to the Windy Knoll Farm. The wreath hanging on the wall is one that has been ordered by an upscale Wichita steakhouse. The wreath side of the business is growing in popularity.



The Learning Post

By Gordon Morrison
Concordia Rancher and
Former Agriculture Educator

Youth Will Inspire Youth

In last week's column, I wrote about the recent Town Hall meeting in Concordia and the good turnout for it. My concern is that there were very few under the age of 30 years in attendance. It is imperative that we get the younger generation more involved so they will be informed when we hand the baton to them, for it will be up to them to finish the race. That is why I am using for my guest writers those who are young, successful, and who can inspire the youth to take an interest in what they can do to keep our country great. It is they who will make the difference down the road. Youth will inspire youth.

With that point in mind, I am including in today's column some more comments by Brandon Barr, vo-ag instructor at Council Grove High School, who, at my request, wrote this as a follow-up to his article that was printed in this column in the November 3 paper. The following paragraphs are by him:

Some people say history repeats itself. I have also heard that success breeds success. If that is so, I think we have a bright future ahead of us.

I was born in 1977 in Emporia to a couple who a year later invested in a dairy farm. That was the life I knew until I graduated from high school. I learned many things on this dairy farm — the value of a dollar, the value of a hard day's work, being a man of my word, the life and death cycle, honoring my parents, and most of all, it gave me the opportunity to become who I am today.

I was active in the Reading 4-H Club in Lyon County for 12 years. My mom was the community leader for this club. This didn't mean I could get away with anything such as slacking off. What it did mean was that I had to show every kind of farm animal that has four legs — dairy, beef, horse, bucket calf, and swine; and we entered the maximum number allowed. This meant trimming about ten head for myself plus doing the daily chores required of me. Many days I was unappreciative of my parents, especially if they made me go back and do a job over. I heard these words many times: "Well, if you did it right the first time, you wouldn't have to do it again" or "You said you would do chores after football practice. I guess I'll do them; a man is only as good as his word." I was a quick learner and started doing things right the first time and taking pride in what I did because it was expected of me.

How does this relate to history and success? I think there are many of us that had good values instilled within us when we were young. We pass these down to our own kids,

and in my case to the ones I teach. I often see kids coming into my FFA program who just want to "half-do" things because that is what has been expected of them, and they don't realize they can do better. In the ag program I raise the bar, and I expect them to do more than the average. Many times I have heard students say "We have to study and work harder in here than we do in any other class." Once these kids gain success as a result of hard work, they want to repeat the success over and over again, regardless of the countless hours of hard work. When the younger kids see the older ones having success, this inspires them and breeds success for future classes coming into the program.

I take pride in knowing that they strive to achieve because it means they care about what they are learning and that it is an expectation of mine for them. I find myself often repeating the words of my parents, "If you would do it right the first time, you wouldn't have to cut your project apart and redo it" or "You said you were going to do this and you didn't; a person is only as good as his word." By having high but realistic expectations, I hopefully am setting the kids up for success in the future.

Sometimes it is easy as an agriculture instructor to base success on how many plaques are brought home, how many state titles or national proficiency awards are won. But I believe a more important indicator of success is the kind of person being produced. My goal is to produce a student that has the same values that I was raised on — one that knows how to work hard, what it takes to be on top, and most importantly, how to give back. Probably the most rewarding thing for me as an ag instructor is having students call me up or drop by to tell me about the successes they are having in their lives as a result of the program.

Sometimes I think we look at agriculture education as strictly a farm kid program, but that is no longer true, for it has expanded to include all the agri-businesses. It can be a great vehicle for teaching young women and men about hard work, honesty, character, leadership, and patriotism. Perhaps ag programs should be offered in more schools.

I want to challenge you with this: Yes, history does repeat itself and success does breed success. What are you doing in your own communities to see this happen? Invest in our youth, just the way our parents did, to ensure our future.

Guest Editorial

Any volunteers to call the HSUS or PETA?

By Jody Donohue

I thought the rest of the world knew that pigs weren't to blame for the spread of the H1N1 virus. Apparently nobody called the HSUS or PETA to share this news.

They are using H1N1 as another reason people should choose not to eat meat. You can even watch an hour-long presentation on their website blaming "factory farms" for the emergence of this strain.

From the HSUS website:

"Crowding pigs into factory farms likely led to the emergence of the H1N1 swine flu pandemic. So far, millions of people have been infected and thousands have died. Learn the inside story on the origins of swine flu and ways we can help prevent flu pandemics in the future."

"The price of factory farmed meat doesn't reflect its true cost. This pandemic may be part of the price we're all paying for products from filthy industrial pig factories."

"... the best way to reduce the risk of future out-

breaks may be to follow the advice of the American Public Health Association and declare "no more factory farms."

But, in another section of their site about the H1N1 and safety of pets, they inform that other animals that have contracted H1N1 have caught it from a human.

Hmmm? Don't worry about your pets, but farm animals are evil — yes I'm drawing my own conclusion. No need for any HSUS member to call me.

PETA is up to similar tactics. They're now calling it the pork flu at events and handing out masks as well as starter kits to make the switch to eating vegan. And to appeal to the artsy crowd, they're sponsoring a "swine flu haiku" contest.

Give me a Rolaid.

Neither group has gone as far as to say you'll contract the flu by eating meat, but the average person reading on their site would make that assumption.

Here's what they're saying about agriculture's role in H1N1 and other health issues.

"Hans-Gerhard Wagner

of the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization has acknowledged that factory farms create an "opportunity for emerging disease." The meat, egg and dairy industries keep diseased animals in crowded, filthy conditions and feed them a steady diet of drugs to keep them alive. It shouldn't come as a shock that factory farms provide the ideal conditions for drug-resistant "superbugs" to develop.

How about this billboard from PETA: "Your demand for meat creates disease." It's in the UK. How would you like to see that up against a "Beef, it's what for dinner" billboard?

These groups see some chinks in our armor and that their message is starting to gain some traction. Now more than ever it's time for producers and the organizations that represent us to start sharing reality and calling these guys out when they spread lies.

Donohue writes on the activist groups working to put farmers and ranchers out of business at www.agropinion.com.



Over the Barn Gate

By Beth Gaines-Riffel

What a small world it really is. I know I've covered this subject in this space before, but it amazes me more the longer that I serve as editor of the paper and work to tell the agriculture story in Kansas just how interconnected the industry really is.

A few years ago there was a game going around with the younger set with the goal of linking movies to a particular actor in less than six degrees. I've joked that most in state agriculture could be linked in less than three. It's something I still believe.

As I visited with the Grelingers in Butler County, we started the conversation noting that we'd come full circle — with our first acquaintance more than a couple of decades ago due to 4-H activities.

I've tried to impress upon the youngsters that I've mentored through the year the danger of "burning bridges" and how what seems rather insignificant today, could very well have big implica-

tions sometime down the road.

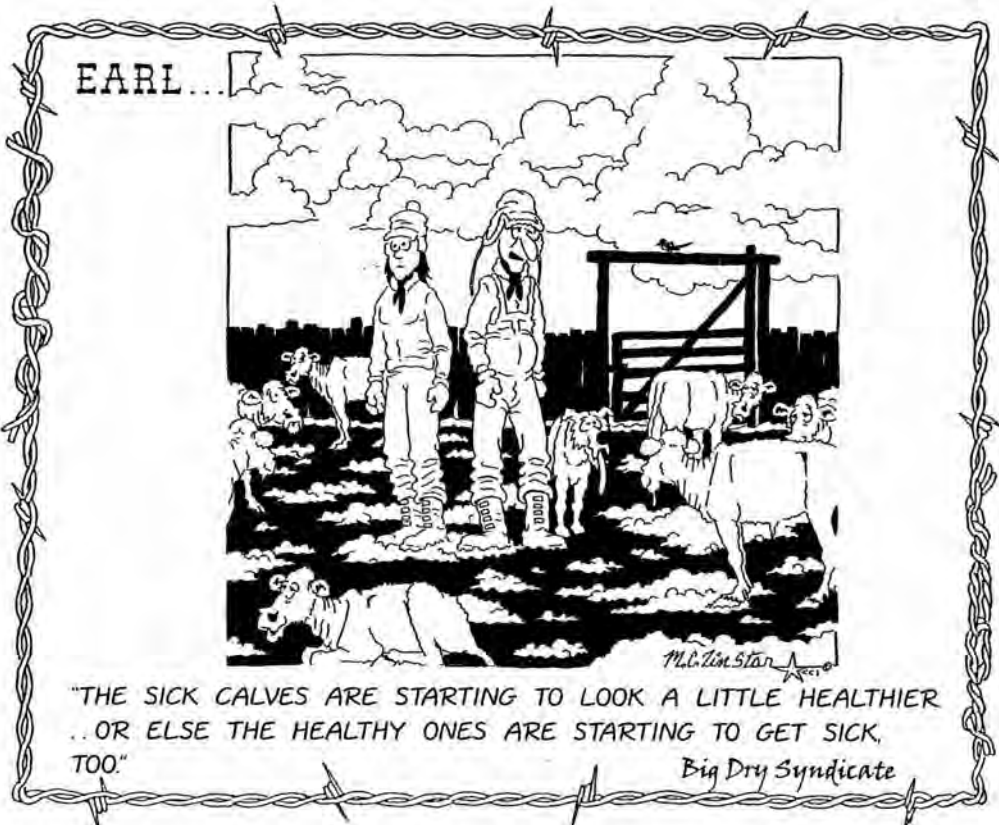
The thing that is often lost on youth — while they are busy building their networks — is that the close-knit nature of the industry has lots of benefits. Like the willingness of folks to come together and help whenever they can.

During the Thanksgiving and Christmas season when I'm busy counting my blessings or building my Christmas card list (which sometimes get mailed, sometimes not) I have reason to think about the number of people I have the privilege to count among my friends and family.

I know that many would come to my aid — and many have — were I in need or asked for their assistance. And for that, I am ultimately thankful.

I hope that your network is similarly blessed. An unknown individual once said that you get what you give. I couldn't agree more.

That's all for now. I'll chat with you next week, "Over the Barn Gate!"



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Group opposes House proposal to extend current estate tax law

The National Cattlemen’s Beef Association released a statement last week expressing their displeasure that Congress has ignored repeated calls for estate tax (“death tax”) reform. The House Rules Committee announced today that H.R. 4154 by Rep. Earl Pomeroy (D-ND) will be considered under a closed rule. The Pomeroy bill would permanently extend the death tax at 2009 levels, without indexing for inflation.

“The Pomeroy bill is a disservice to America’s family farmers and other small businesses,” said NCBA President Gary Voogt. “By keeping a flawed law in place, Congress will simply extend our problems with the current system into the future.”

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Economic Research Service (ERS), farm estates are 5-20 times more likely to incur estate taxes than other estates.

In fact, according to ERS estimates, one in ten farm estates (farms with sales of \$250,000 or more annually) are likely to owe estate taxes in 2009. Farmers and ranchers are often forced to sell off land, equipment, or even the entire ranch just to pay off tax liabilities. This is money that could otherwise be re-invested to grow the family business and hand it down to future generations.

“This is not a tax on the ‘wealthy elite’,” Voogt continued. “It is a huge burden—and in some cases, a death sentence—on family farms and small businesses.”

NCBA continues to support a dual-track approach for death tax reform, including additional relief and an overall exemption for agriculture. Both types of reform are critical.

Kansas Wheat Yield Contest rewards the best

With renewed emphasis in private wheat variety research by a host of multinational seed and chemical companies, the wheat industry is set to undergo fundamental changes.

In time, wheat industry experts expect that wheat yield potential will increase dramatically from what is currently possible today. With that in mind, the inaugural Kansas Wheat Yield Contest — set for the 2010 harvest — is a good start to get growers thinking about obtaining maximum wheat yields.

“More money pumped into wheat variety research will get farmers more genetic potential. To reap the benefits of that potential, wheat farmers need to implement best management practices on their farms,” says Justin Gilpin, chief executive officer of Kansas Wheat. “The Kansas Wheat Yield Contest is one way that farmers can achieve maximum yields and quality.”

The 2010 Kansas Wheat Yield Contest, covering the 2009-10 wheat crop, is designed to generate enthusiasm about wheat produc-

tion in Kansas, develop a protocol of best management practices for wheat production and reward those producers who maximize wheat production in each of three areas of the state.

“By devoting a small amount of acreage to the Kansas Wheat Yield Contest, farmers can prove just how good they can be,” says Jay Armstrong, a farmer and Kansas Wheat Commissioner from Muscotah.

“There is some fun and excitement that goes with trying to push the envelope on yields. This is done in a fun and competitive way, and in the process, farmers will learn new management practices. When it is all said and done, we’ll reward those who show us how high they can go.”

The contest includes three regions: Region 1 (Western Kansas), Region 2 (Central Kansas) and Region 3 (Eastern Kansas). Farmers must enroll a 5-acre plot into the contest, and provide management information about that plot. Producers may enter more than once, but each entry must be submitted on a separate form. Those contestants achieving the top yield in each region will receive \$1,000 in cash plus a plaque from Kansas Wheat. If the winning grower uses the services of a Certified Crop Advisor, that CCA wins a \$500 cash prize.

Prospective contestants must submit a completed entry form and \$50 per entry payment by Jan. 5, 2010. This fee will be used to defray the cost of hiring a 3rd party yield verifi-

er during the summer, 2010 wheat harvest. Contest agronomic/management forms are due to Kansas Wheat by May 30, 2010 and yield results are due to Kansas Wheat by July 10, 2010.

Contest winners will be announced at the Kansas Wheat Conference in late July, 2010.

Contestants must be wheat farmers at least 18 years of age and Kansas residents. Contestants must use certified seed. The contest is open only to dryland fields. Producers may log onto the Kansas Wheat website, www.kansaswheat.org and click on “Yield Contest,” to download the required entry forms. Or, producers may call the Kansas Wheat office, 1-866-75-WHEAT to obtain more information.

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WINNER
Julia Bergman Seneca



JAMBALAYA

28-ounce can diced tomatoes
1 cup diced onion
1 sweet red pepper, diced
1 green pepper, diced
1 celery rib, chopped
2 garlic cloves, minced
1 jalapeno pepper, diced
1 teaspoon hot sauce
1/2 cup chicken broth
8-ounce can tomato sauce
2 tablespoons tomato paste
1 tablespoon butter
1/2 cup water

1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
2 teaspoons oregano
2 teaspoons cajun seasoning
2 bay leaves
1/2 teaspoon thyme
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1/2 pound boneless, skinless chicken breast, cut into 1-inch cubes
1 pound sausage links, cut into 1-inch cubes
1 pound shrimp

In a slow-cooker combine all ingredients except the shrimp. Cover and cook on low for about 5-6 hours or on high 3-4 hours or until chicken juices run clear. Stir in the shrimp about 15 minutes before ready to eat; cook until shrimp is pink and heated through. Discard bay leaves. Serve with hot cooked rice.

Note: If you don't want it to be as spicy, seed the jalapenos, and use less cayenne pepper, cajun seasoning and hot sauce.

Karen Saner, Burns:
CASHEW SALAD

1 head lettuce
1 cup cashews
Fresh spinach
1 cup Swiss cheese, shredded
Bacon, fried & crumbled

Dressing:
1 cup salad oil
3/4 cup sugar
1/3 cup vinegar
Dash salt
1 teaspoon prepared mustard
1 teaspoon grated onion
1 teaspoon poppy seed

Tear lettuce and spinach in bite-sized pieces. When ready to serve, add cashews, cheese and bacon. Pour dressing over salad and toss. If the dressing is refrigerated, let it stand until it is room temperature before adding to salad because it

will get too thick. I often add some dried cherries to the salad.

Rose Willis, Horton:
SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE

4 medium sweet potatoes, peeled & shred thin
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 cup brown sugar
3/4 cup whipping cream (no substitutes)
Marshmallows

In a buttered 9-by-9-inch baking dish arrange a layer of sweet potatoes, closely overlapping slices. Sprinkle with salt and cinnamon. Continue layering ending with potatoes on top. Cover with brown sugar. Pour whipping cream over top. Cover loosely

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2009 Grass & Grain Holiday Recipe Contest

with aluminum foil. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 45 minutes or until tender. Remove foil and cover potatoes with marshmallows. Return to oven until melted. Mixture will thicken.

Doris Shivers, Abilene:
"Here is a new twist on an old favorite! The unique shape and the taste of cranberry make these stuffing balls something out of the ordinary. And they're easy to prepare."

CRANBERRY STUFFING BALLS
1 pound bulk pork sausage
1/2 cup chopped celery
1/4 cup chopped onion
2 tablespoons minced fresh parsley
7-ounce package herb-seasoned stuffing croutons
3/4 cup fresh cranberries, halved
2 eggs, well beaten
1 to 1 1/2 cups chicken broth

In a skillet cook sausage, celery and onion until sausage is done and vegetables are tender. Drain excess fat. In a large mixing bowl combine the meat mixture with remaining ingredients and enough broth to hold mixture together. Shape into 8 to 10 balls. Place in a greased shallow baking dish. Bake at 325 degrees for 30 minutes. Yield: 8 to 10 servings.

Barbara Bausch, Mayetta:
"This delicious salad is at-

tractive in a large pretty dish or poured in a loaf pan, then cut in slices for a salad plate. By changing gelatin cubes' color/flavor, it can be made for any holiday."

HOLIDAY JEWEL SALAD
3-ounce package lemon gelatin
1 cup hot water
1/2 cup miniature marshmallows
1 cup pineapple juice, from crushed pineapple (add water to make 1 cup)
8 ounces cream cheese, softened
20-ounce can crushed pineapple, drained
1 cup heavy cream, whipped
1 cup mayonnaise

Gelatin Cubes:
1 cup hot water for each small package gelatin

For Christmas: 1 small package each of cherry, lemon and lime

For Easter: 1 small package each of orange, lime and grape

For 4th of July: 1 small package each of cherry and grape

Prepare gelatin for "Gelatin Cubes" by dissolving each package of gelatin in 1 cup of hot water. Put each flavor in a separate flat bottom (slightly oiled) pan so that 1-inch cubes can be cut. Let gelatin set until very firm. Cut into cubes with a sharp thin knife and remove with a flat spatula. Mix colors into a bowl before folding carefully (do not break cubes) into lemon gelatin mixture. Dissolve lemon gelatin and hot water in top of double boiler over hot water. Add marshmallows to melt. Remove from heat; add pineapple juice and softened cream cheese. Beat until well blended; add drained crushed pineapple; cool. Fold in whipped cream and mayonnaise. Cool to almost set. Fold in the gelatin cubes. Gently pour into dish or loaf pan. Prepare at least 4 hours before serving in a dish or 12 hours if serving in a loaf pan. Refrigerate. Serves 12.

Connie Enzbrenner, Alma:
EASY CHOCOLATE TRUFFLES
8-ounce package cream cheese, softened
3 cups powdered sugar
1 1/2 packages (12 squares) semisweet baking chocolate (Baker's), melted
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla

Beat cream cheese in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until smooth. Gradually add sugar, mixing until well blended. Add melted chocolate and vanilla; mix well. Refrigerate 1 hour or until chilled. Shape into 1-inch balls. Roll in nuts, cocoa, powdered sugar or coconut. Store in refrigerator or prepare as directed except

omit vanilla. Divide truffles into whatever is needed and add 1 tablespoon of the following flavorings to each and mix well. Almond, orange, raspberry, mint, etc. Roll as above. Put these truffles in pretty fluted candy cups and display on a platter.

Rita Stehno, Munden:
"This is one of our family's favorites, especially at holiday time. This recipe was given to me by my daughter-in-law."

YUMMY CARAMEL CORN
1 bag of Puffcorn popcorn
1/4 cup light Karo syrup
1 stick butter
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup light brown sugar
1/4 teaspoon baking soda

Empty popcorn into a large pan or roasting dish. In a medium saucepan, combine butter, brown sugar and karo syrup. Bring to a boil and stir for 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Add vanilla and baking soda and stir until creamy. Pour over popcorn and mix well to make sure popcorn is well-coated. Bake at 250 degrees for 1 hour, stirring popcorn every 15 minutes. Store in air-tight container.

NOTE: I get the Puffcorn at the Dollar Store.



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G&G Announces Its Annual Holiday Recipe Contest
Nov. 24 through Dec. 22

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 14** will be entered in the holiday contest. Enter as often as you like during this period.

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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. 22.

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**

2009 Grass & Grain Holiday Recipe Contest

Jo Hetzke, Barnes:
**HOT SPICED
APPLE CIDER**

1/2 cup brown sugar
1/4 teaspoon salt
2 quarts apple cider
1 teaspoon whole allspice
1 teaspoon whole cloves
3 sticks cinnamon

Mix brown sugar, salt and apple cider together. Tie spices in a bag and put bag in cider mixture and bring to a boil slowly. Simmer 20 minutes or make in a large coffee pot. Makes 10 servings.

Louetta Erwin, Emporia:
“This is a very moist bread. My family enjoys this very much.”

LOW-FAT BANANA BREAD
1 1/4 cups sugar
1/2 cup soft oleo
2 eggs

1 1/2 cups mashed bananas
1/2 cup buttermilk
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
3/4 cup nuts, I use black walnuts

Mix sugar and butter in a large bowl. Stir in eggs until well blended. Stir in bananas, buttermilk and vanilla and beat until smooth. Stir in flour, baking soda, salt just until moistened. Stir in nuts. Divide batter evenly in two loaf pans. Bake 1 hour at 350 degrees. Cool on wire rack.

Sabra Shirrell, Tecumseh:
“A great Christmas morning dish.”

**APPLE, BACON
& CHEDDAR
BREAD PUDDING**
3 tablespoons butter
3 medium Granny Smith apples, peeled & coarsely chopped (3 cups)
3 tablespoons brown sugar

4 cups cubed firm bread
1 pound bacon, cooked & chopped
2 cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese
2 1/2 cups milk
1 teaspoon dry mustard
1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon pepper
5 eggs

Grease a 2-quart casserole. Melt butter in a 10-inch skillet over medium heat. Cook apples in butter for 2 to 30 minutes, stirring occasionally until crisp-tender. Stir in brown sugar and reduce heat to low. Cook 5 to 6 minutes, stirring occasionally until apples are tender. Layer half each of the bread, bacon, apples and cheese in casserole. Repeat with remaining bread, bacon, apples and cheese. Mix remaining ingredients and pour over cheese. Cover tightly and refrigerate at least two hours but no longer than 24. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Bake uncovered for 40 to 45 minutes or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.

Mary Hedberg, Clifton:
PIG OUT CAKE
Yellow cake mix with pudding
3/4 cup oil
1 can mandarin oranges & juice
4 eggs

Frosting:
15-oz. can crushed pineapple
1 package dry instant vanilla pudding
1/2 cup nuts
1 carton whipped topping
Mix cake mix, oil and mandarin oranges together. Bake in a greased and floured pan at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Mix together frosting ingredients and

frost when cool. Refrigerate after frosting.

Mary Longren, Holton:
HOT TURKEY SALAD
2 cups cooked diced turkey
2 cups thinly sliced celery
1/2 cup toasted slivered almonds

1 cup mayonnaise
2 tablespoons lemon juice
2 teaspoons grated onion
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup grated cheese
1 cup crushed potato chips
Mix all ingredients except cheese and potato chips and put into a casserole dish. Top with cheese and potato chips. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes or 400 degrees for 15 minutes.

Kellee Rogers, Topeka:
**GUMDROP
POPCORN BALLS**
10 cups popped corn
1 1/2 cups small gumdrops
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup light corn syrup
2 tablespoons butter
1/4 teaspoon salt

Line a cookie sheet with waxed paper. In a large bowl combine popcorn and gumdrops. In a medium saucepan combine sugar, corn syrup, butter and salt; mix well. Bring to a boil and cook over medium high heat for 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Add to popcorn mixture and mix well. With hands dipped in cold water, shape mixture into 2 1/2-inch balls. Place on paper-lined cookie sheet and cool 15 minutes. Wrap each popcorn ball individually in plastic wrap. Makes 10 popcorn balls.

Shelly Bargmann, Bremen:
HOT CRAB BITES
2 green onions, sliced & divided

1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese
1/2 cup low-fat cottage cheese
1/2 cup light mayonnaise
16-ounce can crabmeat, drained & flaked
2 tablespoons chopped roasted red peppers
2 teaspoons prepared horseradish
48 Triscuit crackers

Reserve half the onions. Mix remaining onions with all remaining ingredients except crackers; spread onto crackers. Sprinkle with reserved onions. Broil 4 inches from heat for 1 to 2 minutes or until lightly browned.

Margaret Bairow, Westmoreland:
CHEX BRITTLE
6 cups Rice Chex cereal
1 cup salted peanuts
14-ounce can sweetened condensed milk (not evaporated)
1 teaspoon vanilla

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Spray (2) 15-by-10-by-1-inch pans with cooking spray. In a large bowl mix all ingredients until coated. Spread in single layer on prepared pans. Bake 12 minutes. Spread onto waxed paper to cool, about 15 minutes. Break into pieces and store in airtight containers.

Note: Watch closely while baking as will burn easily.

Jessi Armstrong, Frankfort:
“Everyone loves this wonderful dip. It would make a great addition to your holiday parties! You can leave in some of the jalapeno seeds for a spicier dip. Simply double the recipe to fit a 9-by-13-inch pan.”

JALAPENO POPPER DIP
(2) 8-ounce packages cream cheese, softened
1 cup sour cream
4-ounce can chopped green

chiles
4 to 5 jalapenos, seeded & finely chopped
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
1/4 cup real bacon bits
Salt & pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Mix cream cheese and sour cream. Stir in the rest of the ingredients. Place the mix into a sprayed 8-by-8-inch pan. Bake for about 25 minutes or until hot and bubbly. Serve with tortilla chips or crackers.

Lucille Wohler, Clay Center:
“Easy to make & tasty, too.”

MEATLOAF
1 1/2 pounds ground beef
24 single soda crackers
1 small can tomato sauce
1 small diced onion
2 eggs
1/2 tablespoons worcestershire sauce

Chili powder to taste
Combine all ingredients and bake 20 minutes and put ketchup on top. Bake another 20 minutes.

Gin Fox, Holton:
“This makes a large coffee cake or you can put the dough in 2 round pans.”

**NIGHT BEFORE
CHRISTMAS CAKE**
1/2 cup sugar
1/4 cup butter
2 beaten eggs
1/2 cup warm milk
1 package yeast (2 teaspoons bulk yeast), dissolved in 3 tablespoons warm water
3 cups flour
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon vanilla
Topping:
2/3 cup sugar
1 tablespoon cinnamon
4 tablespoons melted butter or margarine
1/2 cup nuts or maraschino cherries, candied red or green cherries

Cream together sugar and butter; add eggs, milk, 1 package yeast (2 tablespoons bulk yeast) dissolved in 3 tablespoons of warm water, flour, salt and vanilla. Beat all of these ingredients together then set dough aside and let it rise until double in size. When the coffee cake dough has risen to double the size (this may take about 2 hours), put it in a 9-by-13-inch greased pan and spread with topping. To prepare topping, combine sugar, cinnamon, melted butter and nuts (you can use other above ingredients if you don't like nuts). Place in a cold oven and leave it in there overnight to rise. The next morning turn oven to 350 degrees and bake for 1/2 hour. Take out and serve warm.

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2009 Grass & Grain Holiday Recipe Contest

Mary Ellen Newbury, Mansfield, Texas:

APPLE-PECAN CAKE
2 eggs
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla
1 cup corn oil
2 cups sugar
1 scant teaspoon salt
3 or 4 large chopped apples
3 cups flour
1 teaspoon soda
1 cup pecans, chopped

Mix eggs, vanilla, oil, sugar and salt thoroughly by mixer. Add the apples and mix by hand. Combine flour, soda and pecans. Fold flour mixture into other mixture. Pour into greased and floured tube pan. Bake at 325 degrees for 1 hour and 40 minutes. Leave in pan until cool. Serve plain or with whipped cream.

Joyce Maginness, Fostoria:

PEANUT BUTTER TRIFLE
1 package chocolate cake mix
(2) 10-ounce packages peanut butter chips
4 1/2 cups cold milk
1 cup heavy cream
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 regular-size packages instant chocolate pudding mix
1 tub whipping topping
3 Nestle's Crunch bars, crumbled

Prepare cake according to box directions; cool completely. In a heavy saucepan combine the peanut butter chips, 1/2 cup cold milk and

heavy cream. Cook and stir over low heat until the chips are melted. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla. Cool for a few minutes. Place remaining 4 cups of milk in a bowl with instant pudding mixes and beat on low speed for 2 minutes. Cube the cake in small pieces and layer the bottom of trifle bowl; layer with about 1/3 of the peanut butter sauce, then about 1/3 of the whipped topping and 1/3 of the crumbled candy bars. Repeat these layers. Cover and refrigerate for at least 3 hours before serving time. Chocolate shaved curls on top add a nice touch, optional.

Lynn Burgess, Lyons:
"This is simple to make and the crock-pot brings out the flavors."

MIXED BERRY CRUMBLE
(2) 12-ounce bags frozen mixed berries
1/2 cup dried cranberries
1/3 cup cranberry juice cocktail
1/4 cup quick-cooking tapioca
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1 cup sugar
1 recipe Crumble Topping (below)
In a 4- to 5-quart slow-cooker stir together mixed berries, dried cranberries, cranberry juice cocktail, tapioca, cinnamon and sugar. Cover and cook on high setting 2-4 hours or until fruit is tender. To

serve, sprinkle crumble topping over warm berry mixture. Makes 8 servings.

Crumble Topping:
1/2 cup baking mix
3/4 cup Kashi cereal
1 cup almond biscotti (about 5 biscotti cookies), crushed
2 tablespoons butter, melted
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a baking sheet with aluminum foil and set aside. In medium bowl combine all ingredients. Spread out on prepared baking sheet and bake 12-18 minutes until crisp and golden.

Irene Brainard, Mankato:
"Very good; no one would know it's low fat."

CARAMEL APPLE SALAD
2 small packages fat-free butterscotch instant pudding
20-ounce can crushed pineapple
(2) 8-ounce cartons fat-free frozen whipped topping, thawed
4 small apples, chopped
Mix pudding with pineapple. Fold in whipped topping and apples. Chill.

Mona Jean Newbury, Junction City

STRAWBERRY DESSERT
1 cup flour
1/4 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup margarine
1/2 cup chopped nuts
Filling:
10 ounces frozen strawber-

ries, do not thaw
9-ounce carton whipped topping
1 cup sugar
2 egg whites, room temperature

Mix together flour, brown sugar, margarine and nuts and spread on cookie sheets. Bake at 375 degrees for 10 to 15 minutes or until golden brown and crumbly, stirring often. Pour strawberries, sugar and egg whites into a large mixing bowl. Beat hard for 20 minutes (no less with electric mixer). The bowl will be completely full when finished. Fold in whipped topping. Spread crumb mixture into a 9-by-13-inch pan, reserving some for topping. Spread filling over crust then top with remaining crumbs. Freeze.

Sandy Hill, Eskridge:
HOLIDAY CRANBERRY MOLD
3-ounce package wild strawberry gelatin or any red flavor

1 cup boiling water
3/4 cup cold water
1/2 small orange, peeled
2 cups raw cranberries
1 medium apple, diced
3 tablespoons sugar
Dissolve gelatin in boiling water; add cold water. Chill until thickened. Cut orange in wedges and remove seeds. Run orange and cranberries through food grinder or chop in blender. Mix in apple and sugar and fold into thickened gelatin.

Pour into 3-cup mold or 8 individual molds. Chill until firm. Recipe may be doubled for 1 1/2-quart mold.

Janet Jehle, Baldwin City: "Tired of turkey? Try these ... delicious."

HAM BALLS
2 pounds ham
2 pounds pork
2 pounds beef
3 eggs
3 cups graham cracker crumbs
2 cups milk
Sauce:
2 cups tomato soup
3/4 pound brown sugar
1/2 cup vinegar
1 1/2 teaspoons dry mustard

Grind ham, pork and beef all together. Mix eggs, graham cracker crumbs and milk into meat. Form into balls and place in an 11-by-14-inch pan. Keep piling on top of each other. Mix sauce ingredients and pour over ham balls. Bake uncovered in a 325-degree oven for 1 1/2 hours.

Mary Rogers, Topeka:
PEAR CRANBERRY CHUTNEY

3/4 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup raisins
1/2 cup white vinegar
1 1/2 teaspoons finely chopped ginger root
1 clove garlic, crushed
1/2 pound cranberries
2 ripe firm medium pears, chopped
1 small onion, coarsely chopped

1 medium red bell pepper, chopped

Mix all ingredients in a 2-quart saucepan. Heat to boiling, stirring frequently; reduce heat and simmer uncovered about 1 hour, stirring frequently until mixture thickens and fruit is tender. Store covered in non-aluminum container in refrigerator up to 2 weeks. Use over meat or spoon over a round of Brie cheese.

Millie Conger, Tecumseh:
CHERRY ALMOND MACAROONS

4 egg whites at room temperature
2/3 cup sugar
4 cups sweetened flaked coconut
3/4 cup chopped dried cherries
1/2 cup sliced almonds
1/4 cup flour
1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Line baking sheets with parchment paper. Beat egg whites at high speed with an electric mixer until foamy. Add sugar, 1 tablespoon at a time, beating until stiff peaks form. Fold in coconut, cherries, almonds, flour and vanilla. Drop mixture by rounded tablespoons onto prepared baking sheets. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes or until edges begin to brown. Let cool on pans for 2 minutes. Remove from pans and cool completely on wire racks.

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2009 Grass & Grain Holiday Recipe Contest

Mary Rogers, Topeka:
DRIED FRUIT STUFFING
1-pound loaf unsliced sandwich bread cut into 3/4-inch cubes
1 1/2 sticks unsalted butter
3 large Granny Smith apples, cored & finely chopped
1 large onion, chopped
3 ribs celery, chopped
2 cups chicken broth
1 cup golden raisins
1/2 cup dried cherries
1/2 cup chopped parsley
Salt & pepper

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. On each of two baking sheets arrange the bread cubes in a single layer and bake tossing once until dried and slightly toasted, about 10 minutes. Let cool. In a large skillet, melt the butter over medium heat. Add the apples, onion and celery and cook, stirring frequently, until softened, about 10 minutes. Transfer to a large bowl and stir in the bread, chicken broth, raisins, dried cherries and parsley; season with salt and pepper. Transfer to a 3-quart baking dish and cover with foil. Bake for 20 minutes then remove the foil and bake until golden, about 15 minutes more.

Sandy Hill, Eskridge:
CHILI RELLENO BAKE
1 pound ground chuck
1 pound ground sausage
1 onion, chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 cup salsa
(5) 4-ounce cans whole chiles, drained
2 cups shredded Monterey jack cheese with peppers
2 cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese
1/3 cup yellow cornmeal
4 large eggs
1/4 cup flour
1 1/2 cups milk
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon hot sauce

Garnish: sour cream, chopped fresh cilantro
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease a 9-by-13-inch baking dish. In a large skillet, combine ground chuck, ground sausage, onion and garlic. Cook over medium heat, stirring occasionally until meat is browned and crumbly. Drain well. Stir in salsa. Cut chiles in half lengthwise and remove seeds. Place half of chiles evenly over bottom of baking dish. Spoon half of meat mixture over chiles. Sprinkle evenly with half of cheese. Place remaining chiles in an even layer over cheese. Spoon remaining meat mixture over chiles. Top evenly with remaining cheese. Sprinkle cornmeal evenly over cheese. In a medium bowl whisk together eggs and flour until smooth. Whisk in milk, salt and hot sauce. Pour over cornmeal. Bake 35 to 45 minutes or until set. Let cool 10 minutes. Cut into squares to serve. Garnish with sour cream and chopped fresh cilantro, if desired. Serves 8 to 10.

Kellee Rogers, Topeka: "A great Christmas dessert."
HOLIDAY SNOWBALL CAKE
2-layer size devil's food cake mix
8-ounce package cream cheese
1 egg
2 tablespoons granulated sugar
3.4-ounce package vanilla instant pudding
1/4 cup powdered sugar
1 cup cold milk
2 cups whipped topping
1 cup angel flake coconut
Heat oven to 350 degrees. Prepare batter in a 2 1/2-quart oven-proof bowl as directed on package; scrape side of bowl. Beat cream cheese, egg and sugar until well blended. Spoon into center of batter in bowl. Bake 1 hour and 5 minutes or until toothpick inserted comes out clean. Cool in a bowl for 10 minutes. Loosen cake from bowl with knife, using potholders if necessary; invert onto wire rack. Remove bowl and cool cake completely. Beat dry pudding, powdered sugar and milk in a bowl with whisk for 2 minutes. Stir in whipped topping. Refrigerate until ready to use. Place cake on plate and frost with whipped topping. Cover with coconut. Keep refrigerated.

TIP: To keep cake from sticking, scrape side of bowl before baking.

Sabra Shirrell, Tecumseh:
PEPPERMINT FUDGE
2 1/4 cups chocolate chips
1 cup round peppermint candies
3/4 cup heavy cream
3 1/2 cups mini marshmallows
5 tablespoons unsalted butter
1 1/4 cups sugar
1 teaspoon salt
Lightly spray a 9-inch baking pan with nonstick spray. Line the pan with two pieces of parchment paper in both directions leaving 2 inches of overhang on all sides. Spray parchment. Place chocolate in a bowl. In a food processor pulse candies until finely chopped. In a medium saucepan combine candies, cream, marshmallows, butter, sugar and salt over medium high heat. Whisk until smooth, about 5 minutes. Pour mixture through a strainer into bowl with chocolate and let stand 1 minute then stir until smooth. Pour

into baking pan and refrigerate until set, about 3 hours. Cut fudge into 1 1/2-inch squares. To store, cover and refrigerate up to 1 week.

The final two are from Millie Conger, Tecumseh:
DOUBLE CHOCOLATE COVERED CHERRIES
10-ounce jar maraschino cherries with stems
Chocolate Fondant:
3 tablespoons butter
2 tablespoons light corn syrup
1 ounce unsweetened chocolate, melted
2 teaspoons half & half (or milk)
2 cups powdered sugar
Coating:
12-ounce package white vanilla chips
1 tablespoon shortening
Place cherries on several paper towels; gently press out excess moisture. Let stand at least 1 hour to drain. In a medium bowl combine butter, corn syrup, chocolate and half & half; beat until smooth. Stir in powdered sugar. Mixture will seem dry and crumbly. Turn fondant out onto work surface, knead until smooth. Divide fondant into 24 pieces. Shape each piece into a ball. Flatten each ball slightly, mold around drained cherry, covering cherry completely. Refrigerate at least 1 hour or until very cold and firm. Line large cookie sheet with waxed paper. In a small saucepan over low heat melt vanilla chips and shortening, stirring constantly until smooth. Place over pan of hot water to maintain dipping consistency. Holding stems, dip fondant covered cherries into melted chips. Drag bottoms of cherries lightly over edge of pan to remove excess

coating. Place on paper-lined cookie sheet to set. Place cherries in small paper cups if desired. Store in tightly covered container. Centers will soften slightly in 10 to 14 days. For cherries without stems, insert toothpick and dip as directed.

GREEN BEANS & PECANS
(2) 14-ounce packages frozen whole green beans
1/2 cup water
1/2 cup butter
1/2 cup chopped pecans

In a large Dutch oven combine green beans and water. Cover and cook over medium high heat for 6 to 8 minutes or until desired tenderness. In a skillet melt butter over medium heat. Cook until butter is browned. Add pecans and cook for 2 to 3 minutes or until toasted. Add butter mixture to green beans tossing gently to coat. Serve immediately.

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 Apple Cider Drink Mix from Millie Conger, Tecumseh.

Helen Aurand, Belleville, sent a response to the request for Whoopie Pies recipe. "This recipe is from Lewistown, Penn. where I was raised."

WHOOPIE PIES

1 cup brown sugar
1 cup white sugar
1/2 cup shortening
1 cup buttermilk
1 cup boiling water
1/2 cup cocoa
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 teaspoons soda
4 cups flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon baking powder

Mix all ingredients together; drop by tablespoons onto a baking sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes.

Filling:

2 beaten egg whites, stiff
1 teaspoon vanilla
4 tablespoons flour
4 tablespoons milk

3 1/2 cups powdered sugar
1/2 cup Crisco

To egg whites gradually add remaining ingredients, beating thoroughly after each addition. To make, put filling between each two cookies.

Note: I make 2 batches of icing and 3 batches of cookies.

RECIPE REQUEST

"I am looking for a recipe called 'Grannie's Skinny Pancakes.' My grandmother has lost the recipe. She says it came from a newspaper back in the 1970s. Can you locate the recipe for me?"

Anyone with this recipe is asked to submit it to Woman's Page Editor, Grass & Grain, Box 1009, Manhattan, KS 66505 or e-mail: agpress2@agpress.com.



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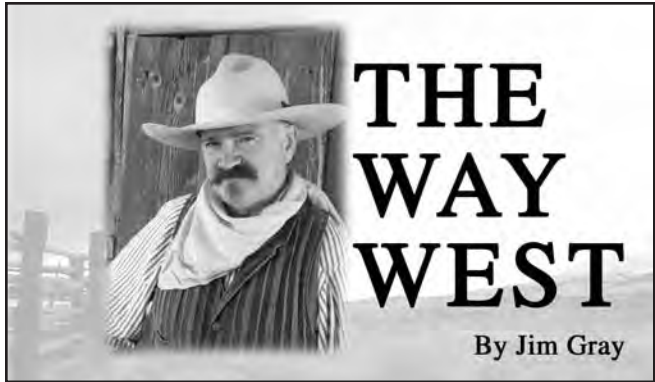


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Hurricane Bill Martin

Wichita witnessed the Texas trail herds pass through on the Chisholm Trail since the town was founded in 1868. When the railroad finally reached town in 1872 Wichita quickly gained a major portion of the Texas cattle trade. By 1874 scores of Texas drovers were milling about on the streets. No one probably noticed when Texas bad man Hurricane Bill Martin, along with a dozen gunslinging cowboys, rode into town that spring, at least until the Texans made a point of holding onto their pistols in defiance of the “no gun” ordinance. City Marshal Billy Smith

was not a tough lawman. Earlier gun laws were relaxed to the point that Hurricane Bill and his Texas Gang of about a dozen cowboys roamed at will on the streets with their pistols hanging from their hips. One of the Texas Gang, by the name of Ramsey, had an argument with Charley Sanders, a black man who worked at laying brick for a building on Main Street. A day after the argument, May 27, 1874, Ramsey quietly walked up behind Sanders and pulled his pistol. Two shots suddenly rang out. Sanders never knew what hit him as he fell with bullets through his head and

breast. Marshal Smith ran toward the sound of the shots. but ran into the Texas Gang with pistols drawn. Smith could only watch as Ramsey mounted his horse and dashed for the bridge over the Arkansas River. The Wichita Eagle reported the incident, noting that while Marshal Smith was being held at the point of a dozen guns, citizens chased the Texan down the street with “revolvers in hand.” Ramsey made it to the open prairie and was never heard from again. The Texas Gang continued to have their way on Wichita’s streets while the Eagle called for the “no gun” law to be enforced. The city increased the police force to a total of six men. On July 6th one of the new officers, Sam Botts, stopped a Texan carrying a six-gun. He had no more than disarmed the cowboy when a dozen or more Texans pulled their pistols, causing deputy Botts to return the six-gun to the offending Texan. By this time a vigilante force had been organized to support the police. A large triangle was used to sound

the alarm when the police were in need of citizen support. Within minutes of sounding the alarm, “...forty or fifty citizens armed with well loaded shot guns and Henry rifles rushed to the aid of the officers.” The citizen’s army caught up with the fleeing Texans on their own turf known as “Horse Thief Corner.” The scene was filled with electricity as the two groups faced off to prepare for battle. The vigilance committee had had enough. Many of them were Civil War veterans who were more than capable of dealing with a deadly situation. Marshal Smith stepped forward, not to arrest the Texans, but to calm the angry vigilantes. Smith called on the vigilantes to drop the matter before townsmen were killed. Attorney S. M. Tucker was not about to “drop the matter”

and announced, “This is the third time I’ve been out on this kind of a call and we have never made an arrest. I don’t care for trouble, I am used to it. Point out the man you want arrested, and I’ll arrest him, kill or get killed.” Marshall Smith replied, “All right, arrest Hurricane Bill.” Suddenly, the intense spectacle grew silent. Everyone heard Tucker cock his shotgun. He stepped forward and leveled the gun at Hurricane Bill. “William, I want you. You are under arrest.” In the still of the moment Hurricane made a move to raise his six-guns, but Tucker shouted, “Lay down those guns.” Just then Hurricane noticed that the barrels of Tucker’s shotgun “looked as big as stove pipes!” “You can have me.” was all he

could say as his six-guns fell to the street. Tucker approached Hurricane Bill as the stunned cowboys of the Texas Gang dropped their pistols. The cowboys were marched to the police station where the city collected a tidy sum of \$600. The Texas Gang was broken. Hurricane Bill was one of those wild characters of the Old West that seemed to ride out of a novel. At Fort Griffin, Texas, a shotgun wedding hitched him up to a gal known as Hurricane Minnie. You never know what you are going to find on The Way West. “The Cowboy,” Jim Gray is author of *Desperate Seed: Ellsworth Kansas on the Violent Frontier* and also publishes *Kansas Cowboy, Old West history from a Kansas perspective.* Contact 785-472-4703 or www.droversmercantile.com © 2009

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Kansas growers will wait for EPA's science-based decision on ethanol waiver

The Environmental Protection Agency announced today a delay in its decision on the ethanol industry's request for higher ethanol blends. A December 1 deadline had been set for EPA to announce its decision on the use of fuel blends up to 15 percent ethanol. The agency said it needed more time to complete scientific evaluation of the request and said a decision should be made by next spring.

In its response to the waiver request, EPA Assistant Administrator Gina McCarthy wrote that EPA recognizes higher ethanol blends are necessary to meet renewable fuel requirements and noted that EPA is beginning work to develop labeling for higher blends. She indicated that the ongoing studies have been positive.

"Although all of the studies have not been completed, our engineering assessment to date indicates that the robust fuel, engine and emissions control systems on newer vehicles (likely 2001 and newer model years) will likely be able to accommodate higher ethanol blends, such as E15," McCarthy said.

Kansas Corn Growers Executive Director Jere White said the association supports EPA's efforts to make a decision based on sound science.

"When the ethanol industry asked EPA for the waiver, we said we had faith in EPA's ability to conduct a science-based review of higher ethanol blends," White said. "Today, the agency was honest in saying it needed more time to complete its research. The best outcome would be a decision to allow higher blends of ethanol that can be used in all vehicles, including those manufactured before 2001."

The arbitrary 10 percent blend wall is a barrier not only to the growth of the grain based ethanol industry, but also inhibits the development of cellulosic ethanol.

"Without a robust grain ethanol industry, we won't be able to develop cellulosic ethanol that holds so much promise. When you add cellulosic ethanol to the mix, we have the opportunity to take a major step dramatically reduce our dependence on foreign oil," White said.

Growers are more than able to provide enough feedstock for both grain and cellulosic ethanol.

"Our growers have proven time and time again that they can provide enough grain to satisfy the needs of all our customers," White said. "This year U.S. growers are harvesting a near record crop and Kansas will produce over 560 million bushels, shattering the previous record of 507 million bushels set in 2007. With improvements in production practices and crop genetics, our corn farmers will continue to produce an ample supply of corn for feed, fuel and food."

The Kansas Corn Growers Association represents corn growers in legislative and regulatory issues. More information can be found at www.ksgrowers.com

Ag Hall of Fame looks to cultivate attendance

BONNER SPRINGS (AP) — The National Agricultural Center and Hall of Fame is taking steps to boost attendance and avoid having to close its doors.

The Bonner Springs facility, which next summer celebrates the 50th anniversary of receiving its congressional charter to be the nation's official agricultural center, considered going completely online amid low attendance and money trouble.

Instead, the center took some drastic moves to shake up its management, including the replacement of its board of directors in early November.

The center typically closes for the winter. When it reopens next spring, officials hope the center will be on the rebound.

"We're going to go after the future," said Frank Van Fleet, the center's newly elected board chairman. "We're going to show the American people what's happening in agriculture today."

One of the first decisions by the new board was to lay off the center's three full-time workers and three part-

time workers. Among those losing their jobs was Tim Daugherty, the center's chief executive since 2007.

Van Fleet said the board wasn't happy with Daugherty's performance, especially given his \$120,000 annual salary, according to the center's 2008 tax records.

Daugherty said he had tried to boost the center's profile and bring more people in the door but had had little luck. He said he hoped the new leaders had better success.

"It's been a fun, good experience," said Daugherty, a former Farmland Industries Inc. vice president of administration.

The center covers 165 acres just west of the Kansas Speedway. It features displays of 19th century farm equipment and a recreated farm town. It also recognizes American agriculture leaders, going back to George Washington and Squanto — the Mashpee Wampanoag

Indian who helped the Pilgrims survive their first New England winter.

A decline in school field trips and the Future Farmers of America moving its annu-

nized by the federal government, receives no public tax support.

Center officials acknowledge that one problem is that the facility focuses on the history of agriculture instead of its high-tech present and it will need to become more progressive to attract interest and visitors.

Van Fleet said he wants to approach major agricultural companies for help, possibly seeking naming rights or offering the center as a way for chemical, equipment and other industry leaders to show off their products.

He'd also like greater involvement on the board by local, state and national members of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

"We're going to take this thing national," said Van Fleet, president of the Wyandotte County Farm Bureau.

We're going to show the American people what's happening in agriculture today.

—Frank Van Fleet

al convention out of Kansas City in the 1990s reduced attendance.

Daugherty said the center gets about 10,000 visitors a year, a third of what it needs, requiring the facility to eat into its savings to cover the \$350,000 budget. The center has almost exhausted the \$600,000-\$700,000 it received in a 2004 land sale and has seen its investments hurt by the recession.

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BY RALPH GALEANO

The Boss

In the financial world it's called brick and mortar. Somethin' you can depend on. In our world of horses it's called foundation. Good horseflesh. The type that can carry you in tough country or rope calves all day without givin' out on you. A horse that can take you home at night when it's darker than the inside of a black cow and never miss the trail.

We had a mare whose claim to foundation stock was on her papers. She was a granddaughter of King Leo Bars. A descendant of those venerable three horses who helped set the standard for the Foundation Quarter Horse. She was big, beauti-

ful and in charge. Keebe W Bar gave the orders to the rest of the band. She seldom lost when it came to a kicking contest. The other kicker would give way after a few well-placed shots from Keebe hit the bullseye. The horses in her band were mostly family, her and her half sister's colts and, once in a while, an outsider I brought home.

Every horse's head came to attention when she snorted or made any move that meant danger, imagined or real. If she left in a hurry, you could bet the rest of the bunch were on her heels. If one of the horses dozed off while the rest wandered

away looking for a better blade of grass, she would look back and keep tabs on the sleeper. She was the boss and the rest of the horses depended on her to lead the way.

I watched through binoculars when she gave birth to her third colt. I was sitting on my Japanese quarterhorse on a knoll and saw what happened. She had moved away from the other horses for privacy.

She stopped in an open field and began turning in circles. Then she lay down and pushed that horse colt right out onto the spring grass. She didn't waste any time. I could see her sides

heaving from the exertion but, otherwise, everything looked okay. That's about the time trouble started.

Keebe didn't pay any attention to a small bunch of cows that were nearby. They paid attention because that big sorrel mare had moved them all over the ranch pushing them into corrals, traps and alleyways more times than they'd like to remember. She usually meant trouble for cows.

They watched wide-eyed while she had the colt. Curiosity got the best of them and they moved closer, almost up to where she lay. She sensed the cattle nearby and felt her colt was threatened. Still breathing heavy, she stood, looked down at the colt and then charged, ears back, at the cattle. They ran off a ways but returned

when she turned her attack on another. Down the field, the horses saw the commotion and started galloping towards the excitement. I knew she needed help. She was surrounded, outnumbered and more problems were headed her way at high speed.

I cranked up the four-wheeler and raced to the mare and colt. The other horses beat me there and Keebe was frantically trying to keep all the rubber-necks away from her baby. I saw relief in her eye when I arrived to join the fray. Her sharp teeth and powerful hooves along with my harmless hat waving in the air soon convinced the other critters to clear out. The fun was over. She settled down and began taking care of the task at hand. I took care of

her needs and then left the pair alone to get to know each other. I watched again from a distance and when I saw the wobbly colt stand and make contact with the milk supply, I went back to work. Stouthearted, she proved her worth one nasty spring day. Heavy snowpack in the northern Rockies coupled with unseasonably warm weather and torrents of rain brought record flooding to the river that ran through the ranch. The rain pounded the snowpack and caused a high-speed meltdown. Water rushed over pasture land and swirled dangerously close around the house and barns.

We moved the cattle a short distance to higher ground. The horses weren't around so we did it on foot. No time to look for them, the

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14 — 7:00 PM

Auction will be held at Kountry Kafe 210 Star Ave, MILTONVALE, KS.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: SE ¼ 21-7-1 Cloud Co. Kansas.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: 160 acres located from Highway 24 & East Miltonvale turn go North 4 miles ½ mile East. The farm has 88.6 cropland acres with the balance pasture & creek. The pasture has a creek running through it along with many trees, to make a nice hunting area. The base acres are wheat 60.1 acres, corn 9.0 acres, grain sorghum 9.0 acres, soybeans 9.0 acres. The 2009 Government payments were \$1,140.00.

TERMS: 20% of purchase price as down payment day of auction balance will be due upon closing on or before December 31,

2009. Title insurance will be used, the cost will be split 50/50 between the Seller & Purchaser. Seller will pay 2009 taxes, Purchaser will pay 2010 taxes.

POSSESSION: Possession of the pasture will be upon closing. Hunting rights will be upon closing. Possession of the wheat ground will be after the 2010 wheat harvest. Purchaser will receive cash rent of \$45.00 per acre from the renter for 2010 wheat.

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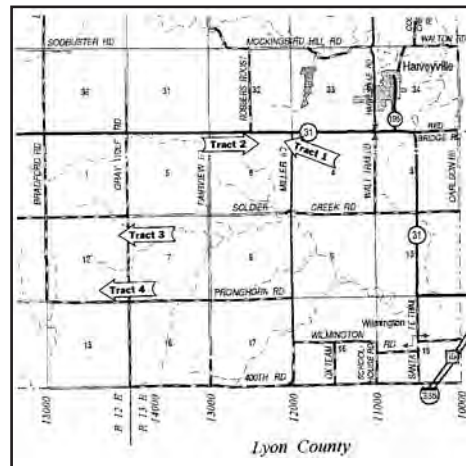
TRACT #1 - 99 Acres M/L with approx. 60 acres crop ground, 19 acres Brome hay ground, 10 acres wind break, 3 small ponds, trees and Brome. Located at SW corner of Highway 31 and Miller Rd., 1 mile West of Harveyville, paved road on 2 sides, natural gas and rural water available. 2009 taxes - \$267.14. Excellent home site.

TRACT #2 - 87 Acres M/L with approx. 59 acres of good quality Brome grass hay ground, approx. 15 acres of crop ground, balance creek and trees. The tract is adjacent to Tract #1 to the West and fronts on Hwy 31. Water meter in place, natural gas available. 2009 taxes - \$223.86. Very nice home site with South slope.

TRACT #3 - 120 Acres M/L mostly mixed native and Brome pasture. New well built, 5 wire fence on South line, other fences are good 5 and 6 wire, 2 small ponds, newer wing fence and pipe catch pens at NE corner. Located 3 miles West of Harveyville on Hwy. 31 to Gray Wolf Rd., then South 1 mile to SW corner at Soldier Creek Rd. and Gray Wolf Rd., 2009 taxes - \$263.42.

TRACT #4 - 160 Acres M/L with approx. 17 acres of Brome grass hay ground with balance mostly native grass pasture, 3 small ponds, good fence, new double pipe gate. Tract #3 and #4 join at corner with wire gate access between 2 pastures. Located at Gray Wolf Rd. and Pronghorn Rd., 2 miles South of Hwy. 31. 2009 taxes - \$208.44.

TERMS OF SALE: Successful bidder, sign purchase contract, 10% down day of auction with the balance due at closing on or before January 15, 2010, possession at the time of closing. Buyer to have all inspections they deem necessary completed prior to auction. All financial arrangements must be made prior to auction, no finance contingencies will



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water was rising. We moved a camper and stock trailer filled with hay to a small bluff overlooking the buildings that were now threatened by the dangerous, swirling waters. There we camped and watched the flood unfold. Giant cottonwood trees and years of accumulated driftwood were swept away and raced down the river, churning and smashing into the banks, demolishing everything in their path. It was a frightening scene. I still hadn't seen the horses and felt pinpricks of fear when I wondered where they were.

It was easy to worry about them. Between the flood, missing horses and cows that decided to camp with us near the hay trailer, bawling all night long, sleep was impossible. They rubbed against the camper till dawn and made you think you were at sea in a hurricane.

Another day passed and still no sign of horses. I scanned the areas I could see and found no trace of them.

They must be holed up in the brush somewhere or stranded on high ground and waiting for the water to go down, I thought.

The next morning I decided to make my way along the edge of the flood waters and see if I could spot them. They saved me the trouble. The faint sound of approaching hooves on the hardpan behind our makeshift camp was a welcome sound. My heart sank when they came into sight.

The boss was in the lead with the other clip-cloppers close behind. She was dripping blood from fresh wounds. She was cut the width of her chest and deep lacerations crossed her forearms. Next came her last year filly and she was cut on her forearm and knees. The other horses were okay. There had been a struggle and I had an idea it was with wire.

Chest wounds usually heal well and I knew she would be okay after we doctored her, but I was curious

of what happened and where they'd been while the worst of the flood roared down the valley.

The next day I worked my way along the edge of the river. I came to a spot where the bank had washed away. There were horse tracks leading to the wash-out. No tracks coming back. Horses had been on that high bank before it washed away.

Further along I found where they had been trapped between the river and a fence line. The flood had washed the bank away behind them and they couldn't return. They were trapped against four strands of barb wire on one side and a raging river on the other.

There was only a few feet of bank left between the river and the wire and it was churned with tracks. The bank had been eroding away from the force of the river and the horses had been steadily losing the small piece of real estate they were trapped on. As the bank disappeared they were forced to crowd against the wire. Judging by the small portion of bank left, they were near to being swept away and lost in the maelstrom of the angry river.

The boss was cut so I knew she was first through the fence with her filly close behind. The two top strands of wire were busted. Busted and showing sorrel horse hair in the barbs. Desperate and knowing they were running out of time, Keebe W Bar, that good foundation mare, smashed into the fence until she was able to break the wire and save her band from a desperate situation.

Call it what you want, but I believe her solid foundation breeding put the right stuff in her along with the strength and determination to force her way through four strands of 12-gauge wire and lead those horses to safety in what appeared to be the nick of time.

Glare ice can be a winter road hazard

"Glare ice" is a winter weather term that many don't know about, although they may have observed it, said State of Kansas Climatologist Mary Knapp.

"Unlike black ice, which is nearly invisible, glare ice is a highly reflective ice surface — whether on sea, land or glacier. Kansans typically notice it first on road surfaces, where it can be quite a hazard," said Knapp, who heads the Kansas Weather Data Library, based with Kansas State University Research and Extension.

In general, glare ice falls into three broad categories, she said. The first and most common results from the compaction of previous storms' snow, ice or slush.

"Most Kansas drivers are familiar with this type, having seen at some time a light, powdery snow compacted into a treacherous slab of ice," Knapp said.

A less common category is the film of ice produced when car exhaust condenses on a roadway. It's most likely to be a problem where cars sit and idle for a while, such as at yield signs and stoplights.

The third category of glare ice appears when water condenses or ice crystallizes directly from the air onto a road surface. For that to occur, the road surface must be colder than the air above it. The process is most likely when the air is fairly humid and temperatures are edging upward after a long, ground-freezing cold spell.

"This form of glare ice is most usual in the northern areas of the country. It's also the category that most resembles black ice," Knapp said.

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Company wins state contract

Purple Wave Auction company, Manhattan, was recently awarded business for the State of Kansas following a competitive bidding and critical review process.

The Kansas Department of Administration exercised its option to retain Purple Wave through June 30, 2011, as the on-call auctioneering service provider for the state. Purple Wave Auction was awarded the on-call auctioneering services contract first in 2004 and again in 2008.

Through the Department-administered contract, auctioneering services are available to all Kansas agencies, counties, cities, townships and other political subdivisions without the need for a separate bidding process.

The Kansas Department of Revenue-Alcoholic Beverage Control Division separately awarded Purple Wave a contract to sell seized assets for the ABC through September 30, 2010, with seven one-year renewal options.

Purple Wave won the only portion of the KDOR contract it competed for. ABC has sold assets through the company since 2005 under the Department of Administration umbrella contract.

In 2008, Purple Wave sold roughly \$5 million in surplus assets for more than one hundred governmental entities.

Birdbaths, feeders entice animals into your landscape

Once the growing season is done and the gardening equipment has been put away, many homeowners invite birds into their home landscape. It's a win-win situation. Birds find necessary nourishment during the cold, winter months, and families enjoy watching the colorful, often graceful visitors.

Bird feeding is a popular hobby in America. According to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Americans spent almost \$800 million on birdhouses, feeders, and baths in 2006, and more than \$3 billion on wild bird food. By early November, most of the bird species that winter in Kansas will be on-site, and looking for food.

"Birds that are very easily attracted into the backyard to join our winter resident species or year-round resident species include the Northern Cardinal, the American Goldfinch, and the house finch," said Chuck Otte, agriculture and natural resources agent for K-State Research and Extension's Geary County office.

Even blue jays can be a lot of fun to watch, he added. "But they're annoying to a lot of people because they're kind of the bullies of the neighborhood."

As in the real estate business, setting up a bird habitat is all about location, loca-

tion, and location. The habitat should be some place attractive to both birds, and those who want to watch them.

"We feed birds for one basic reason," Otte said, "and it's not to help them survive the winter. It's to get them closer into the backyard, so we can enjoy them better."

Otte says a successful backyard bird habitat will furnish three critical needs: food, water and shelter.

Many bird feeders are on the market now. They come in a variety of shapes and sizes, each with its distinct advantages and disadvantages.

Birds can be very specific, Otte said, about both what food is offered, and how it is offered. Some birds prefer to scratch around on the ground, while others may prefer one of the elevated feeders or a tube-type feeder hanging from a tree branch. Feeders need to be accessible to the homeowner, as well, for cleaning and filling.

A wide variety of com-

mercial birdseed mixes are available, too, but Otte recommends two very specific seeds to start with — seeds that almost any bird will find tasty.

"Look for mixes that have a lot of the white proso millet a lot of the black oil sunflower," said Otte. "If you're finding lots of corn, lots of wheat, lots of grain sorghum or milo, these are things to avoid. Yes, birds will eat them, if nothing else is available. But given their druthers, they'd rather have some black oil sunflower or white proso millet."

"For example, you and I will eat hamburgers if they're there, but if a nice T-bone steak is also available, we might show a preference for that. It's that same sort of philosophy."

A heated birdbath can be a wonderful addition to a backyard bird habitat, he said. These units are electric, and generally use less energy than most people expect. "Look for a unit that has a built-in thermostat. And remember to change the water

and clean it throughout the season," Otte said.

Homeowners also must remember, however, that in addition to food and water, birds need to feel safe and protected.

"Birds are not flying over your house at 500 feet and then going into a nosedive to get into your yard. They move in carefully and cautiously. So you need to make safe travel lanes," Otte said. Large trees serve as a focal point for birds to hone in on, he explained, while smaller trees and shrubs will make birds feel safe and secure — especially if they happen to be close to the feeders. Threats can come from down below (cats, for example) and above (hawks and other predatory birds).

"Primarily the small hawks — the Sharp-shinned hawk and the Cooper's

hawk—are the ones that view your feeder as a 'feeder' of a different kind," Otte said.

Sometimes, the best bird habitat can be a corner of the yard that never seems to get cleaned up. A pile of brush left over from tree pruning can provide good cover and shelter for birds all winter long, he said. A Christmas tree, added after the holidays, can be attractive to small birds, if left near a bird feeder. Birdhouses, usually thought of as a place for birds to raise their families during summer, can provide shelter on frosty nights.

"They'll be used for roosting, for birds such as chickadees, nuthatches," Otte said. "Instead of one breeding pair, you may have 10 or 12 of them packed in there during a cold winter's night. Those sorts of things can certainly help."

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The squirrel conundrum

Squirrels have certainly done their share for the popular online video site YouTube. A YouTube search of the term "squirrel bird feeder" produces more than 1,000 results. Evidently, "if you put up a bird feeder, they will come."

"Squirrels are the bane of every bird feeder. The irony is, there is no such thing as a squirrel-proof feeder," said Chuck Otte, agriculture and natural resources agent for K-State Research and Extension's Geary County office. "Squirrels are very intelligent. They will overcome just about anything you try to use to defeat them."

Otte offered two strategies for dealing with squirrels, however. The first involves diplomacy, and the second leverages the power of science.

1. "Feed and Distract" — Squirrels are hungry — that's why they want your birdseed. But they don't really need your sunflower seeds or millet. "They're very fond of corn, so start putting out some ears of corn — drive a nail into a fence and stick it on there," Otte suggested. "Or hang it from the tree on a small chain with an eye bolt screwed into the end of the ear of corn. A lot of times that will help."

2. "Give 'Em a Hot Mouth" — Lace the birdseed with ground, red cayenne pepper. This is not a "once-and-done" fix — it may be necessary to lace and re-lace birdseed for four to six weeks, before squirrels get the message. It may also need to be repeated later in the winter.

"Birds have different taste receptors in their mouth," Otte explained. "They don't even notice the capsaicin in the red pepper. It's not going to faze them at all. It's a good source of Vitamin A."

"Squirrels have sensors in their mouth just like we do, and you're really going to give them a hot mouth. They may hog your bird bath for a little while, but usually what you want to do is simply get the squirrel to associate eating from your bird feeder with a very unpleasant experience."

This strategy has become so popular, that some producers of commercial birdseed mixes are beginning to incorporate the red pepper into their bags of seed.

Don't let 2009 tax planning for your business go by the wayside

While many farmers are still trying to finish up with harvest, now also is the time to start thinking about year-end tax planning, says the Nebraska Farm Business Association director.

While there isn't a whole lot new to do, it is still important for farmers and ranchers to pay close attention to the usual deductions, said Tina Barrett, director, Nebraska Farm Business Association.

"2009 has provided opportunities for higher than average profitability," Barrett said. "While not as high as in 2008 or 2007, these higher incomes may be harder to manage due to carryover of income from 2007 and 2008."

Farmers and ranchers still can take advantage of the Section 179 Expense Election. This election allows the

write-off of the first \$250,000 in depreciation of assets that were bought in 2009. This means purchases like tractors, combines and most farm equipment and breeding livestock can be written off in the year of purchase.

"Some assets that don't qualify include machine sheds and purchases from related parties, such as buying a tractor from Dad," Barrett said.

The bonus election, which was reinstated with the 2008 Economic Stimulus Package, also still exists.

Any brand new assets or breeding livestock not used in someone else's herd counts for a 50 percent write-off, she said.

The bonus can be used with the 179 Expense Election, but the 179 election has to be used first.

The bonus election can apply only to brand new assets, while the 179

election can be applied to used equipment. The bonus also can be used to accelerate the depreciation of a machine shed, but it must be put up and in use in 2009 for it to qualify.

"Be sure to work with a farm tax adviser before the end of the year to make sure all advantages are received," Barrett said.

Farmers and ranchers can also, as always, pre-pay major inputs, such as seed and chemical, but remember, it will result in fewer deductions for next year.

"Many times we defer or pre-pay something one year thinking the next year may be a bad one," she said. "When we have a few good years in a row, it can start a snowball effect of always needing to find bigger pre-pays or deferring even more income to next year."



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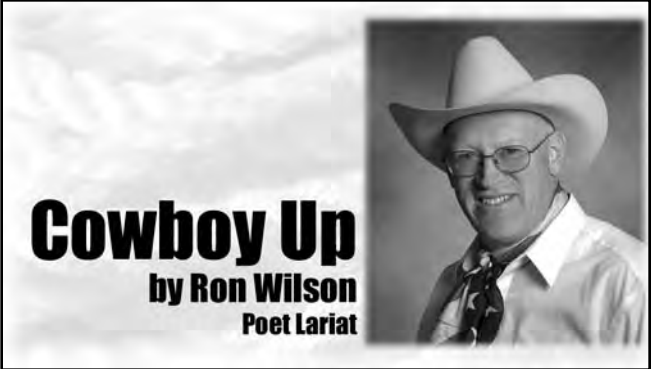


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J.E.

The newspaper clipping is old and yellowed, the edges curled and worn. But the print remains clear and readable, and the headline proclaims, "Maquon Homecoming Parade is Complete with John Mosher."

John Mosher, better known as J.E., was my wife's grandfather. This old newspaper story describes how J.E. Mosher faithfully rode his horse in his community's annual parade. A black-and-white photo next to the story shows J.E. on horseback, tipping his cowboy hat to the camera.

J.E. Mosher was quite a horseman. I never met him, but I heard lots of stories about him while courting my wife. He lived on a farm

in Illinois near the small town of Maquon, and he loved his horses. Like my own grandfather, he wanted things "just so" where his horses were concerned.

Grandpa J.E. Mosher especially enjoyed trail rides and parades. He made sure his granddaughters had ponies and tack, and went on trail rides every summer.

He had an American Saddle Horse named Huck Finn which he faithfully rode in his local parade every year, even when he (Grandpa, not the horse) was more than 90 years old. Huck Finn had a high-stepping gait which made him a crowd favorite. As the article reported, the parade wasn't complete without

Grandpa Mosher and his horse.

This article was printed in 1979 and my wife has saved it through the years. At the time it was written, J.E. was preparing to ride in the local parade at age 95 – yes, 95! (Even if they take away your driver's license, I guess you can still ride a horse). My wife grew up going to trail rides and parades with Grandpa and his horses.

By contrast, my family never considered riding a horse in a parade when I was a kid. At our place, horses were for two things: Gathering cattle or a nice ride on Sunday afternoon. The thought of riding in a parade (In town? In front of people?) never entered our consciousness.

When I met my wife-to-be, I learned about Grandpa Mosher and his love of riding in parades. Years later, we moved to Wamego where a saddle club and other local riders regularly appeared in the Fourth of July parade every year. I admired their horses and thought they added a great deal to the festivities.

Then one time I was performing cowboy poetry at a festival in western Kansas and saw a friend of mine riding in the local parade. Cowboy Smarts finally kicked in: Maybe I could ride in a parade myself. It would be fun and would fit with my cowboy poetry. We had several horses on our place, but I considered none of them to be parade-ready. The obvious solution (to my family's chagrin) was to buy yet another horse.

I finally found a Quarter Horse gelding down by Alta Vista who had been

used in parades. He is a sorrel named Bo, about 15 hands high. Bo is like me: Seasoned, mature, experienced. (In other words, old as the hills). But I figured his parade experience would come in handy, and it did.

I even practiced to get ready for the parade, trailering him to town and riding him around a big parking lot. When the Fourth of July came, I proudly rode him in the parade. Since then I have ridden him in numerous parades, and I've learned a lot about the do's

and don'ts of riding horseback in a parade. More on that another day.

If you have a story about an old time horseman, or an interesting experience in a parade, drop me an email at ron@ronscowboypoetry.com.

We have found that riding in a parade can be fun. My kids have accompanied me on their ponies on a few occasions. And now my wife has bought a pretty paint mare who will be good in parades too.

I think J.E. would be proud.

J.E. the Horseman

Dedicated to "Grandpa," John Everett Mosher

by Ron Wilson, Poet Lariat

His name was John Everett - called J.E. for short.

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Now J.E. has gone to his final goodbye. He's found that heavenly reward in the sky.

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2 stacking bookcases; bookcase secretary; kitchen cabinet; wash stands; dressers; mantle clock; child's oak chair; child's piano; old rocking horses; claw foot tables; Manitowoc Seed Co. display shelf; child's oak desk; old chairs; lions head coffee box; clocks; Indian artifacts; arrowheads; German hand-made marbles; crockery; sulphide marble; toys; postcards; black memorabilia; Fryer Tuck; Fenton; Depression glass; Carnival; jadeite; sterling silver; airplane lamp with blue globe; mantle Spaniels; Majolica; figurines; oak organ; crock bowls; and many more old and unusual items.

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Kansas Cattlemen's Association

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E-mail: cowsrus@kansascattlemen.com • Website: www.kansascattlemen.com

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Mike Callicrate
St. Francis, KS
785-332-3344

Coake Feeding Co
Richard Koenke
Dodge City, KS
620-227-2673

Dodge City Feeders, LLC
Bronson Smith
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620-792-1378

Finney County FY
Doug Parham
Garden City, KS
620-275-7163

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Danny Herrmann
Ford, KS
620-369-2252

Hoxie Feedyard
Scott Foote
Hoxie, KS
785-386-4519

Maverick Feeders LLC
Gene Carson
Dodge City, KS
620-227-3308

What's the Word from Kansas Producers?

We are seeing more environmental regulations coming to us. We are producers, conservationists, stewards of the land. Whoever is doing this is going to regulated us out of business.

Response: KCA has visited with our legislators, and KCA is supporting legislation that would protect producers' right to farm and inhibit the EPA from immeasurable restrictions and unfair regulations on agriculture.

We keep hearing about National Animal ID. I thought the USDA hosted meetings about that. I know I do not want it.

Response: Animal ID has been around for centuries. We use such methods as visual tags and brands. USDA did host a number of NAIS meeting throughout the year and heard from producers and other industry professionals. There was an overwhelming majority opposed to NAIS. KCA and other producer organizations were able to work with Congress and slash the NAIS budget more than 50%. However, millions of dollars were still allocated for the NAIS program. With your interests in mind, KCA is working to completely eliminate federal funding of NAIS.

Cattle Prices aren't getting any better. How can we fix this market?

Response: Since its inception, KCA has worked to provide producers with the best opportunities to make a living in the cattle industry. Negotiated prices and TRUE transparency in the market is a big step in obtaining better prices for your products. KCA has worked on this from the beginning and will continue to make it a top priority.

KCA! We're listening to you. We're acting on your behalf. Don't be Idle, Get Involved! Join KCA today!

The Kansas Cattlemen's Association is Kansas' fastest growing cattlemen's association. Our mission is to restore profits, self-esteem, freedom, fair trade, trust and community pride back to the farms, ranches and rural communities across Kansas and the Nation.

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Mid America Feeders, LLC
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Perry Owens
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Phil Conyack
Plainville, KS
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Bill Shaw
Ashland, KS
620-635-2670

Winter Feed Yard
Ken Winter
Dodge City, KS
620-225-4128

GRASS
& GRAIN

Auction Sales Scheduled

check out the on-line schedule at www.grassandgrain.com

December 9 — Equipment at Spring Hill for consignment auction. Auctioneers: Countrywide Tractor & Auction.

December 9 — Equipment online only (www.bigiron.com) for Big Iron. Auctioneers: Stock Auction Co.

December 10 — Tractors, combine & harvest equip., farm machinery, trucks & trailers & misc. at Halstead for Mark & Joan Ellingson. Auctioneers: Stock Auction Co.

December 10 (bidding ends) — Ag equipment online only (www.purplewave.com). Auctioneers: Purple Wave Auctions.

December 12 — Fall consignment auction at Washington. Auctioneers: Raymond Bott, Lee Holtmeier & Luke Bott.

December 12 — Antiques & collectibles, tools & other at Salina. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

December 12 — Antiques & collectibles, household,

tools, lawn spreaders, yard art, golf cart, lawn mower & guns at Marysville for Lydia Allerheiligen. Auctioneers: Don Prell Realty & Auction.

December 12 — Pottery, furniture, collectibles, glassware at El Dorado for Doris Mae Newsom Living Estate. Auctioneers: Sundgren Auctions.

December 12 — Holiday, dolls & toys, antiques & collectibles, glassware, kitchen, furniture & household, shop & tools, sporting, yard & garden, medical & misc. at Great Bend for Thelma Beckman, Gisela McConnell & Nadine Sears. Auctioneers: Schremmer Auction.

December 14 — Cloud Co. real estate at Miltonvale for Begnoche Family Farms. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

December 14 — Lincoln Co. real estate at Barnard for Grimm & Nelson Family Trusts. Auctioneers:

Farmland Auction & Realty Co., Inc.

December 17 — Wabaunsee Co. real estate at Harveyville for Donald I. Hrenchir Jr. & Cynthia L. Hrenchir and Louis R. Guth & Colleen M. Guth. Auctioneers: Pearl Real Estate & Appraisal Service.

December 17 — Excavators, dozers, wheel loaders, backhoes, skid steers & more utility contractor equip. at Grandview (Kansas City), MO. Auctioneers: Graves CIF Auctions.

December 18 — Excess inventory, tractors, combines, headers & grain cart, planters, drills, hay equip. & mowers & more at Great Bend for Straub International, Inc. Auctioneers: Carr Auction & Real Estate, Inc.

December 18 — Tractors, combines, heads, hay equip., tillage, planters & drills, other equip., Gators, lawn tractors at Richmond, MO for Rich-

mond Farm & Lawn. Auctioneers: Wheeler Auctions.

December 20 — Coin auction, gold, platinum, national currency, Prestige sets, Morgan dollars & many more lots of coins and currency at Abilene for single area collector. Auctioneers: Reynolds, Mugler & Geist.

December 21 — Johnson County, Missouri real estate at Holden, MO for John & Joanne Mahurin. Auctioneers: Wheeler Auctions.

December 21 — Tractors, combines, flex heads, cornheads, equipment at Mankato, Minn. for Mankato Implement. Auctioneers: Gehling Auctions.

January 1, 2010 — 25th Annual New Years Day Consignment Auction at Lyndon for Harley Gerdes.

March 6 — Machinery, equip., tractors & combine at Paxico for Duane & Diane Hund. Auctioneers: Murray Auction & Realty, Steve Murray.

March 7 — Farm equipment & misc. consignments at Wetmore for St. James Building Fund. Auctioneers: Local auctioneers.

March 8 — Farm sale E. of

Agenda for Richard Anderson Estate. Auctioneers: Larry Lagasse Auction & Real Estate.

March 13 — 24th annual Concordia Optimist Club consignment sale at Concordia.

March 13 — Harley Gerdes consignment auction at Lyndon.

March 13 — Jewell Co. real estate at Formoso for Taylor & Edna Ruth Clark Estates. Auctioneers: Larry Lagasse Auction & Real Estate.

May 31 — 17th annual Harley Gerdes Memorial Day consignment auction at Lyndon.

HUGE MACHINERY AUCTION

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18 — 11:00 AM
RICHMOND FARM & LAWN
39706 Business Hwy 10 West
RICHMOND, MISSOURI

Is an ongoing JD Dealership and will hold their annual machinery auction, Friday, December 18 at 10:00am at their dealership on Bus. Hwy. 10 West of Richmond, MO. Offered is a huge line of used inventory. JD financing available. Please call Marty or Gregg at 816-776-2261 to be pre-approved for financing.

Directions: From Hwy 65 at Carrollton, MO exit, take Bus. Hwy 10 W. 30 mi. to Richmond, MO. From I-70 & Hwy 13 Jct, take Hwy 13 N. approx. 30 mi. to Richmond, MO.

TRACTORS: 2008 JD 6430 Standard, MFWD, 327 hrs; 2008 JD 6430 Standard, MFWD, 402 hrs; 2008 JD 6430 Standard, MFWD, 269.9 hrs; 2008 JD 6430 Standard, MFWD, 256 hrs; 2008 JD 6430 Premium, MFWD, 423 hrs; 2008 CIH Steiger 335, 4x4, 489 hrs; 2007 JD8430, MFWD, 16 sp PS, 1555 hrs; 2007 JD 9330, bareback, 18 sp PS, 1288 hrs; 2007 JD 9320, 18 sp PS, 734 hrs; 2007 JD 7830, MFWD, w/746 Loader, 643 hrs; 2007 JD 7830, MFWD, 632 hrs; 2006 JD 7830, MFWD, 803 hrs; 2004 JD 7420, MFWD, w/740 Loader, 628 hrs; 2002 8520T, PS, 2806 hrs; 2001 8410T, PS, 2166 hrs; 2001 8410T, PS, 2683 hrs; 2000 JD 5205, w/521 Loader, 854 hrs; 2000 Ford TC29D, MFWD w/72" grooming mower, 1286 hrs; 1997 JD 6300, MFWD, 3766 hrs; 1997 CAT 55, 15 sp PS, 5389 hrs; 1995 JD 8770, w/dozer blade, 5260 hrs; 1990 JD 2955, 5967 hrs; 1988 JD 2755, 2671 hrs; 1982 IHC 5288, 5181 hrs; 1979 Case 2590, 5348hrs; 1978 JD 4440, w/JD 725 Loader, 7700 hrs; 1977 Case 1570, 4140 hrs; 1976 JD 4430, 12000+/- hrs; 1968 IH 856, diesel; 1966 Case 530, WF; 1963 JD 3010, 5997 hrs.

COMBINES: 2007 JD 9660 STS, 4x4, Premier CAB, s-250 hrs; 2007 JD 9660 STS, 4x4, Premium CAB, s-443 hrs, e-625 hrs; 2007 JD 9660 STS, 4x4, s-491 hrs, e-821 hrs; 2007 JD 9660 STS, 4x4, s-495 hrs; 2007 9760 STS, 4x4, S-258 hrs, E-338 hrs; 2005 JD 9660 STS, 4x4, s-700 hrs; 2005 JD 9660 STS, 4x4, s-1288 hrs, e-1903 hrs; 2004 9760 STS, 4x4, s-680 hrs, E-1084 hrs; 2002 JD 9750 STS, 4x4, s-1250 +/-; 1991 JD 9500, 4x4, s-2707 hrs, e-3744 hrs; 1990 JD 9600, 4x4, s-4217 hrs, e-7059 hrs; 1988 JD 7720, 4x4, sells w/922 platform, 3412 hrs; 1983 JD 6620, sells w/918 platform, head trailer, and 643 cornhead, 3916 hrs.

HEADS: 2007 JD 630F; 2005 JD 630F; 2003 JD 630F; 2002 JD 893 Corn Head; JD 930, CM; JD 930, LL; JD 930 Rigid; JD 925F; JD 843 Corn Head.

HAY EQUIPMENT: 2007 JD

• List is subject to additions and deletions.

• Not responsible for accidents or theft.

• All announcements made day of sale take precedence over this advertisement.

JD Financing available for qualified end user buyers. Please call for credit application and check out the financing options available. For pre-approval, please contact Marty or Gregg at 816-776-2261. Deadline for financing is December 17th at 4:00 p.m. Richmond Farm & Lawn is an ongoing JD Dealership and will conduct all regular business before and after the auction.

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: If you are looking for any class of farm machinery, tractors, combines, etc) please plan to attend this quality auction. There will possibly be many more pieces at the auction than advertised. Some details have been omitted due to advertising space. Please call if you would like more information. Chas.

SELLER: RICHMOND FARM & LAWN
816-776-2261

Wheeler Chas Wheeler, Owner/Auctioneer
Bill Ringhausen 573-754-2254
Charlie Nordwald 636-795-4552
AUCTIONS & REAL ESTATE John Wallace 573-470-4234
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Take steps to prepare for coming winter weather

Midwestern winters not only bring cold temperatures and freezing winds, it can also bring a very unwelcomed guest — ice storms.

In December 2007, a major ice storm hit Oklahoma and Kansas and emergency generators were sold out in days.

Scott Frazier, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension biosystems and agricultural engineering renewable energy engineer, said if you think you need a generator, now is the time to carefully think over the issues before the weather gets bad.

"Sometimes we don't appreciate something until it's gone, and this can be the case with electric power," Frazier said. "The utility systems in the state are very reliable, but cannot be made fail proof and can be

disrupted by heavy winds or ice storms. Rural areas may experience longer outages due to remote power lines."

There are two main categories for backup generators: standby and portable.

Standby generators are typically large, automated systems wired directly into the house's main electrical panel.

"Standby generators will automatically start after a power outage and will typically power most, if not all the home,"

Portable generators are much smaller, simpler devices and will typically not power the entire home.

Frazier said these generators are usually manually started and some are electric start.

"Depending on the size of the portable generator, it may only be able to power a

few appliances at once," he said. "Small, portable generators cannot power central air conditioning systems, electric ranges, electric resistance furnaces, electric clothes dryers or electric water heaters because of the high power requirements of these appliances."

Portable generators can be sized to operate critical appliances long enough to get through a rough stretch.

The key to buying a portable generator for emergency power is to properly size the generator to power the devices you real-

ly want to keep running, like the refrigerator.

The capacity of a generator is usually in watts. For example, a 2,000-watt generator is the same as a two-kilowatt generator because 1,000 watts is equal to one kilowatt.

"If an appliance requires 120 volts and uses 10 amps, this appliance requires 1,200 watts," Frazier said. "By using this formula, you can determine what you can run on your generator. An appliance that requires 1,200 watts and one requiring 600 watts might be run on a 2,000-watt generator."

AUCTION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12 — 10:00 AM

Auction will be held in Kenwood Hall at the Saline Co Expo Center 900 Greeley in

SALINA, KANSAS

ANTIQUES/COLLECTABLES, TOOLS & OTHER

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

Note: This is a large auction with many boxes never opened. This is a large one owner auction. Check our web site at www.thummelauction.com for pictures.

Auction Conducted By

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EXCESS INVENTORY AUCTION

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18 — 10:00 AM
SELLERS: STRAUB INTERNATIONAL, INC.

LOCATION: GREAT BEND, KS—US 56 HWY & AIRPORT ROAD, (214 SW 40 AVE.)

Eqpt. Is Subject To Prior Sale, New Items Might Be Added. One Day Only Parts Sale Day Of The Auction, Qualifying Items Will Have Low Rate CIH Financing Available-Check With Your Straub Int. Sales Consultant.

(30) **TRACTORS** Including: 2008 Case IH Puma 180; 2006 CIH STX500; 2006 CIH STX450; 2005 Case IH MX285; 2004 Case IH MXU1100; 2004 Mahindra C27; 2002 Case IH STX440; 2001 NH TM115 2WD Tractor & Loader; 2000 CIH MX220; 2000 NH TC 29 D; 2005 Case IH 440 Skid Steer; 2000 NH LS170 Skid Steer; Case IH 1537 Skid Steer. **COMBINES, HEADERS & GRAIN CART:** (2) 2002 CIH 2388; 2000 CIH 2388; 2005 JD 9860; 2004 Case IH 8010; 2004 Case IH 2388; 1995 CIH 2188; 1995 JD 9500; 2004 Case IH 1020 Hdr; 2007 JD 1293 Hdr; JD 853 Hdr; 2002 Sheldor 32 Hdr; 2005 Mac Don 974 Hdr; 1999 CIH 1010 Hdr; 1999 JD 893 Hdr; 1994 Case IH 1063 Hdr; 1996 JD 925 Hdr; 1992 Case IH 1083 Hdr. (9) **PLANTERS & (17) DRILLS** Including: 2003 CIH 1200 Planter; 2000 CIH 955 Planter; 2001 White 8108 8-R Planter; 1997 Case IH 950 Planter; 2007 Great Plains No-Till 40' Drill; 2007 CB 4000AP Drill; 2005 CB 4025 Drill; 2007 CB 4030 Drill; 2005 CB 4740 Drill; 1995 GP No-Till Drill. **HAY EQPT. & MOWERS (7) Windrowers, (6) Rd. & Sq. Balers, (11) Mowers** Including: 2009 JD 4995 Windrower; 2004 CIH WDX1101 Windrower; 2005 Case IH WDX2302 Windrower; 2001 Hesston 4790 Sq. Baler; Case IH 8465A Rd. Baler; 2004 Case IH RBX562 Rd. Baler; NH 664 Rd. Baler; Case IH 8380 Mower Conditioner; 2000 NH 575T Sq. Baler; Case IH 8465 Rd. Baler; 2003 Rhino RC20 Flail Shredder; 2001 NH HW320 Windrower; 2005 NH BR780 Rd. Baler; 2005 Case IH WDX2302 Windrower. '08 & '07 Toro Riding Mowers; (2) '06 Gravely Riding Mower. **SPRAYERS & FARM EQPT.:** '04 & '06 JD 4920 Sprayers; 2003 Redball 680 Sprayer; 2006 Apache AS1010 Sprayer. **PICKUPS, TRUCK & TRAILER. (20+) 4-WHEELERS:** 2008 Polaris Razor; (2) 2008 Polaris Outlaws; (2) 2008 Sportsman 300's; 2008 Trailblazer 330; (2) 2008 Phoenix 200's.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL STRAUBS: GREAT BEND 800-658-1706; LARNED 866-400-3105; MARION 877-382-2188; PRATT 877-680-4455; SALINA 800-658-4653; SO. HUTCH 800-658-1714; WICHITA 800-779-7012 or check out www.straubint.com

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BAXTER BLACK

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

Veterinary Frustrations

In my travels I continue to be amazed by the technologies being used in ranching and feedlot operations. The close monitoring, record keeping and decision-making as a result of implant or ear tag scanning and computer tracking of individual beasts, is fine-tuning and improving our productive efficiency.

But it wasn't always that way. Dr. Darrell is a cow veterinarian and theriogenologist, as am I. We were waxing nostalgic about the good ol' days when, despite our valuable medical opinion and sage advice, we didn't always get the message across!

Darrell told of preg checking a pasture full of dairy heifers in southern Colorado. The farmer, Mario we'll call him, had dumped a few black bulls in with the heifers. About halfway into the bunch Darrell palpated something odd. The heifer he was in had no uterus and no ovaries! To an experi-

enced vet it's as obvious as reaching into your pocket and suddenly finding no car keys!

"This heifer is open," he told Mario, "She's a free-martin."

Mario looked puzzled. The good doctor explained at length the congenital conditional, defined hermaphrodite, and the prognosis: She would never be capable of conceiving. He even drew diagrams in the dirt, then suggested that the heifer be put into a feedlot and eaten. Mario nodded seriously, then turned her out of the chute. He instructed his helper, "Put her back in with the bulls, her ovaries haven't come down!"

Darrell continued his tales; he was on an 800-head Nevada cow ranch that had never done preg-checking, grandpa didn't believe in it. But the young rancher wanted to modernize. Darrell painstakingly explained the importance of culling open cows to prevent Trichomoni-

asis and improve production. They cut the cattle two ways; Open and Bred. Darrell was not surprised by the 50% conception rate. While he was rinsing out his bucket, he glanced up to see the young rancher mixing the cows back together! The young rancher acknowledged it was good to know how many calves to expect, but Grandpa always said the place would run 800 cows and who could argue with that?

Once, a company I was working for bought a ranch in northern California. I went down to inventory the cows. With the crew I pre-checked 2200 head and sorted them into Open, Bred and

Old. They had a good set of corrals so I didn't bother to mark them. It took three days. To finalize the deal the boss send down a crusty ol' cattle buyer named Harold. He was experienced, the boss told me. I woke up morning four to find Harold had turned the cows all together and was gate cutting them himself in the long alley! I was stunned, mad and bumfoozled! "I sorted these cows, preg checked and mouthed 'em...it took us three days!" I stammered.

"Sorry, ya wasted yer time, Sonny," he said, "Anybody can tell if they're old. And I can tell if they're bred by the way the hair lays on their back!"

Dinner theatre benefit planned

Tickets are now on sale for the 12th Annual Horses of Hope Country Christmas Dinner Theatre. This year the event will take place December 11-12, at the Horses of Hope indoor heated arena just south of Columbus.

This is the center's largest annual fundraising event. This year's Country Christmas Dinner Theatre will begin with a social hour from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Ticket holders can enjoy homemade hot apple cider, homemade cookies and live music provided by the Duling Band from Girard, Kansas. In addition, there will be a silent auction with lots of gifts for all ages.

A traditional country holiday dinner will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m., catered by some of the area's best. Dinner and dessert will be followed by a live auction.

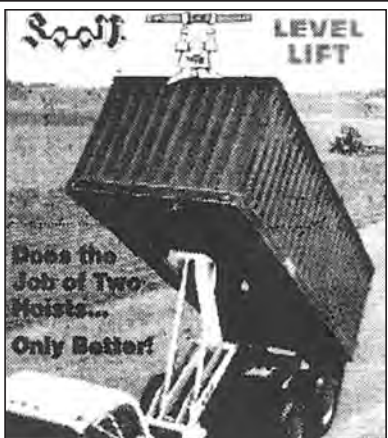
This year's production, "Fear Not Factor" will begin around 7:30 p.m. This charming musical features talented children and adults from throughout southeast Kansas who will help uncover the true meaning of Christmas. The musical is created by Dennis and Nan Allen.

Tickets for the fundraiser are \$30 per person, children under age 5 are free. In addition, tables of eight can also be purchased for \$195 each. To reserve your tickets or table, call (620) 674-3458. For more information call or send an e-mail to hoh@ckt.net. Tickets can be purchased with cash, check, or a credit card.

grassandgrain.com

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