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Loss of local grocery stores now drawing Congressional attention

The lure of potential savings at big box stores is considered a factor in the closing of local grocery stores, and particularly the closing of rural grocery stores.

Such stores often are located 20, 30 or more miles from a rural community, and, while the cost to drive and value of time on the road can erode savings, what happens when roads close?

To put it in perspective, David Procter, director of Kansas State University's Center for Engagement and Community Development, cited the example of Walsh, Colo., pop. 650, and a community in which the local grocery store had closed.

When a wintery mix of snow, ice and blizzard conditions brought road closures and hazardous traveling conditions, residents were unable to replenish essential foods.

"The inability to access food during the storms prompted residents to make re-establishing a local grocery store a priority," said Procter, who reported that residents organized, sold shares to raise capital to re-establish a local grocery, and made a commitment to shop locally.

"The Walsh, Colo., grocery is a success story, yet many communities are struggling to find a solution that will work for them," said Procter, who has been invited to testify before the U.S. Senate Hunger Caucus on Dec. 1, 2011 in Washington, D.C.

He testified before a U.S. House of Representatives Caucus on Hunger in 2009.

Procter, a former speech professor and head of the speech department, was tapped to head K-State's center in 1996 and charged



The city of Onaga lost their grocery store to a fire on December 2, 2010. Understanding that without a grocery store, many of their other businesses would suffer, city officials and the economic development board dedicated their efforts to replacing it. Last Wednesday they held the official opening of the Onaga Country Mart, a brand new, energy-efficient grocery store. Above owner Pam Budenbender, center, talks with community business owner Diane Roggenkamp, left, and Terry Force, chairman of the board of directors of Blue Valley Telecommunications. About 150 business owners and city residents came to the event.

Photo by Joe Harder, Onaga Herald

with matching resources and expertise at the university to community needs throughout the state.

The decline in local grocery stores has been gradual, and the plight of the local grocery store has become a key issue, he said.

Since 2006, Procter said that 82 of 213 Kansas communities with populations of 2,500 or less have lost their local grocery store.

The problem is not unique to Kansas, said Procter, who served as a driving force in organizing a 2010 Rural Grocery Store Summit that attracted more than 200 participants representing 13 states.

"Other countries — Canada, Mexico and Gambia — expressed an interest as well," he said.

Continued on page 3



Atalie Tompkins, Safe Kids Dickinson County Coordinator, receives a \$1250 check from Dr. Casey Barten of Bluestem Embryo Transfer Center, rural Abilene, and Lori Hambright, sale manager for the annual November show calf sale in which the donation is offered and auctioned. The funds through Safe Kids Kansas will benefit the farm safety sector of this program.

Courtesy photo

Veterinary service and show calf sale support Safe Kids Kansas

For the third year, the Shades of Red & White Show Calf Sale has featured a special lot in their consignment cattle sale line-up and it has benefitted the farm safety section of the Safe Kids Kansas program.

Lori Hambright of Kanza Cattle at Chapman is the sale manager for the Shades Sale which features Hereford, Charolais and Shorthorn cattle. It was an idea that Lori took to her veterinarian for support in 2009. Dr. Casey Barten, DVM; Matt Barten; and Dr. Alan Myers, DVM, of Bluestem Embryo Transfer Center, rural Abilene, were on board with the idea. Dr. Barten donated services to 'flush one donor-quality cow' at their facility. Termed 'embryo transfer', it makes it possible to get multiple progeny from a valuable cow.

This is a unique, one-of-a-kind cattle sale feature. It is also the third year that the benefactor is Safe Kids Kansas. A check totaling \$1250 was presented to Atalie Tompkins, Safe Kids Dickinson County Coordinator.

Kanza Cattle and the Bluestem Veterinary Service families feel strongly about education in being safe on all types of farms, including all age ranges from young to adult.

Local investors reopen Washington sale barn

By Dan Thalmann,
Washington County News

The livestock sale barn in Washington has reopened under new ownership and their first sale was held Saturday, Dec. 3.

The sale barn was purchased by 19 investors from the area community, making it a rare example of a sale barn owned by local investors.

Washington County Livestock LLC will be managed by Bill Mathias, of Herington, who owed and managed the sale barn there for 15 years. He is originally from Beatrice, Neb., and said he has a sentimental connection to the Washington sale barn because both of his grandfathers bought cattle there, as did his father and himself over the years until he moved to Herington. Having land near the Diller, Neb., area and farming in the Diller and Odell, Neb., area, he said he used to come to Washington quite often.

The sale barn's board of directors includes Rod



Washington County Livestock LLC has opened for business and held its first sale on December 3.

Courtesy photo

Stewart, Washington; Lee Holtmeier, Linn; and Reynold Schaaf, Linn.

The sale barn closed on June 1 and Stewart said he and the board members had been talking about the possibility of figuring out a way to re-open the business over the summer and fall. Livestock producers appreciate having a sale barn locally and not having to haul their livestock a long distance in order to sell.

"Word got out over the last month and we started getting interested investors and that came pretty quickly," said Stewart. "There was lots of support

to keep it here in the community."

He said it was important to keep the ownership community-based. Stewart said the Washington City Council has been extremely supportive of the effort and with 19 investors, the community has been very supportive too. He said there have even been some people holding onto some cattle to sell when they open, so he appreciates the support.

Sales will be held weekly on Saturdays. Mathias said there are no other livestock sales around on Saturdays anymore, with the closest being in Fort Scott.

He said they felt having Saturday sales might get more buyers to come, plus it would be better for the people who had full-time jobs during the week but maybe had small cow herds. The Saturday sales would also allow kids to come along to the sales, which they often enjoy, and it might be easier for the sale barn to find more part-time employees.

Mathias said they're also looking at adding sheep and goat sales in their new effort as well as auctioning bulk items like hay and posts. Mathias said the sheep and goat sales would likely be

monthly on an alternate day. They could also hold special cow sales or fed cow and bull sales during the week too, if needed.

The first livestock sale was held Dec. 3 and will continue weekly on Saturdays, but changes will be made to the holiday schedule, so they won't have sales on the Saturdays of Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

The group is also looking into streaming their sales online to allow for live bidding over the internet. Stewart said they are working with the Livestock Marketing Association to set that up, so if a buyer isn't able to attend or if it would be more convenient for them to stay home, they can still purchase livestock.

The Sale Barn Café, operated by Cindy Herrs, will stay open under the new ownership, but will change its days of operation to Tuesday through Saturday.

The phone number for Washington County Livestock LLC is 325-2243.



Close your eyes and imagine you're in pre-school. You and your classmates are clucking, oinking and mooing along to one of your favorite songs, "Old MacDonald Had a Farm." When you sang that song

so many years ago, did you imagine Old Mac's livestock being kept indoors in a barn or out grazing in green pastures? Personally, I envisioned the latter but that's not always the case these days in the United

States.

Modern food production in the U.S. has adapted to meet the needs of an exponentially increasing world population and that adaptation has led to developments in housing and management. The transfer of animals grazing in pastures to being raised indoors is not necessarily an adverse development, but rather a product of modernization and

the implementation of technology. However, in Australia many farms continue to raise their livestock outdoors.

The picturesque idea of raising livestock in spacious outdoor settings is booming in Australia. Drive down any country road in the Australian state of Victoria and you'll see dairy cows grazing in lush green pastures. Cape Otway Pork is one of the leading Australian producers of free-range pork and Lilydale Farms produce free-range chickens that can be purchased in restaurants or supermarkets all over the country. There is no shortage of free-range products and there are several reasons behind their wide availability. One of the primary reasons for the abundance of outdoor production systems is the preferential climate in Australia. The temperature rarely drops below freezing so there is no danger of pigs being left out in the snow or sleet as there would be in the Midwest. Additionally, low land prices and high feed costs make outdoor production feasible and much more profitable. For example, aside from supplementing their herd with grain during times of low forage availability, Australian dairy farmers rely on year-round pasture grazing to feed their herd.

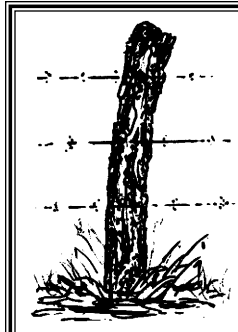
As with most products, consumer demand drives many agriculture production trends. Consumers in Australia seem to have a deep appreciation for niche marketing when it comes to their food as it's very difficult to find eggs, milk or meat that don't tout being "free-range" or "outdoor-bred." For Australian producers, it's a no-brainer to capitalize on the profit opportunities of branded products. For example, the average price difference between "free-range"

chicken thigh fillets and conventional chicken thigh fillets is \$4/kg. While the majority of Australian consumers still prefer low-cost meat products, a growing number are seeking out these higher priced, pasture-based products. Fortunately, Aussie livestock producers have a climate that can accommodate these adaptations.

If Old MacDonald could see production agriculture today, I'm sure he'd be very surprised at the developments that have been made. However, it takes a wide variety of farmers, ideas and methods to produce enough food to

feed seven billion hungry mouths and what works for one country may not work for another. What's important is that global agriculture continues to stick together and provide a safe, wholesome food supply that can be accessed by all people, from all demographics.

Brandi Buzzard is a native Kansan who has been transplanted to Australia. When she isn't globetrotting or working on her thesis, she enjoys rodeoing, being on the farm and writing. You can keep track of her adventures at <http://buzzardsbeat.blogspot.com> or fromoztoaus.blogspot.com.



The Learning Post

By Gordon Morrison
Concordia Rancher and
Former Agriculture Educator
Remembering Pearl Harbor

Seventy years ago today, 33 Japanese warships, including several aircraft carriers, were steaming 200 miles north of Pearl Harbor in the dead of night, unbeknown to the sleeping Americans stationed on Oahu Island. Early the next morning, Sunday, December 7, 1941, 360 Japanese planes, loaded with bombs, took off from their aircraft carriers, destined for Pearl Harbor, where 92 U.S. naval ships were anchored. The first bombs fell at 7:55 a.m. Eighteen ships were sunk or badly damaged, eight of them battleships. Also, 170 of our planes were destroyed at Hickman Field.

The Japanese knew it was perfect timing for a surprise attack. Many of the American G.I.s had been out on the town on Saturday night and were sleeping in on that morning, when they were awakened by exploding bombs. The attack caused 3,700 American casualties with around two thousand of them KIA (killed in action). The sunken and damaged naval vessels were raised and rebuilt to do battle except for the battleships Arizona, Oklahoma, and Utah.

News of the attack reached the people of America on Sunday afternoon. What were you doing when you first heard the news? To be able to answer that question, you would need to be seventy-five years old or older.

In Tokyo, the Japanese government immediately declared war on the United States and Great Britain. One day later President Franklin Roosevelt signed a declaration of war against Japan. He called December 7 a day "that will live in infamy." That date is a red-letter day for America. It was the day we fell asleep at the switch.

The phrase "Remember Pearl Harbor" became the rallying cry for the United States during that war. It was extremely difficult for us to recover from such a dastardly blow, but it did wake us up to commit to defeating the Axis powers (Japan, Germany, and Italy). The war in Europe ended in May of 1945; and the Japanese surrendered in August of that year after atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

In the fall of 1947 I enrolled at K-State. At that time, all males had to take ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corp) during their freshman and sophomore years. Advanced ROTC during the junior and senior years was voluntary. Thinking that since World War II had just recently ended and that surely we would not be entering another war soon, I signed up for advanced ROTC.

In May of 1949, I was assigned to

summer camp at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. While I was there, war broke out in Korea, and the United States committed to helping South Korea. Rumors were that they desperately needed gun fodder, and we would surely be sent over immediately, but that was not so. I finished my B.S. at K-State and was trained for another year before being shipped to Korea as a commissioned officer. I was treated very well. My salary was \$310 a month, plus clothing and housing allowances, and of course food when on active duty. Buck privates received \$75 per month plus a per diem for living expenses.

My father was a devout Christian who hated war with a passion. How well I remember when I was helping him in the milk house, where we had a lot of heavy discussions. He asked me, "Have you ever considered being a C.O. (conscientious objector)?" Without thinking it over much, I quickly replied, "No. I have signed an agreement, and I'll stick with it." Nothing more was said.

Dad did not know that C.O.s are often used as combat medical personnel who do not carry weapons but first aid kits instead and are often used to recover wounded men in no-man's lands. Maybe he would have preferred for me to save lives rather than take them; I do not know.

Arriving in Korea, I soon was up on line, pulling patrol action between the main lines of resistance. Some patrols were quite risky but God prevailed in my behalf. I soon won my infantry combat badge and received combat pay, which was \$45 a month.

The closest I came to being hit was when enemy artillery fire caught me, along with a visiting colonel, out in the open. The shell was set to explode about eight to ten feet above the ground for troops in the open. How we both escaped shrapnel is a "God thing." Another soldier, sitting in the safety of a bunker, was hit by shrapnel going through the narrow aperture for firing his machine gun; it hit him in the throat, killing him. It seemed strange that we were spared when in an open vulnerable spot and Sergeant King was hit while in the relative safety of a bunker.

I refer to this incident to point out the power of prayer. My family told me that Dad prayed fervently for my safety while I was in the service. I returned home in August. He passed away two months later. By that time, I had settled back into civilian life and was teaching school.

I have sometimes wondered if Dad also prayed that he be allowed to live to see me home safely. If so, his prayers were answered.

Prairie Ponderings

By Donna Sullivan

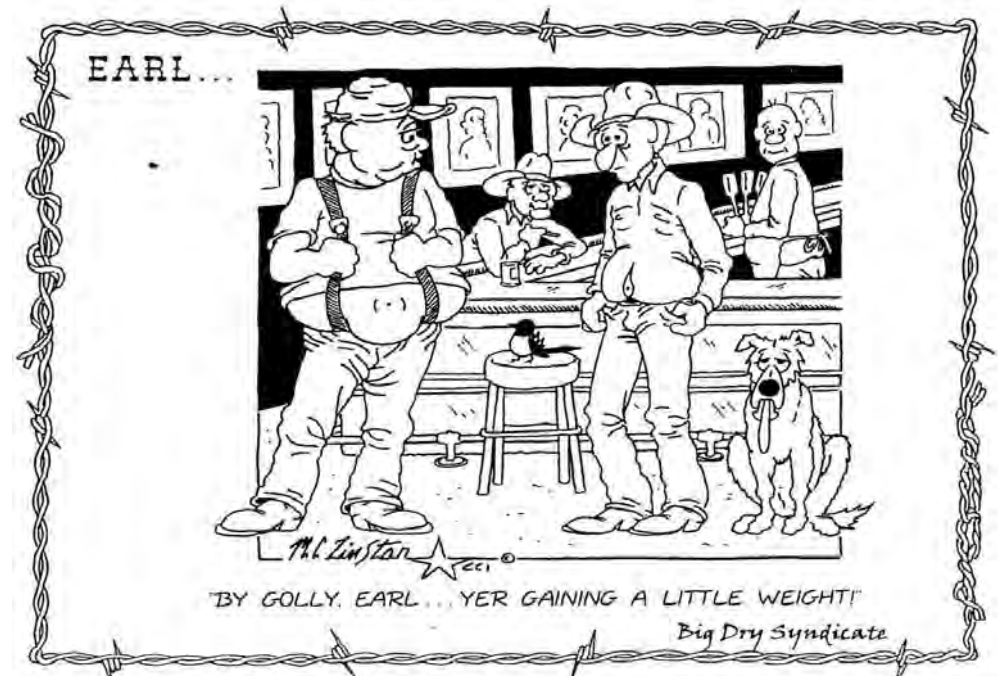
I have learned over the years that it's very important to pick your friends wisely. As a writer, I tend to gravitate towards fellow "word-people." But it's good to include a few "numbers-people" in the mix as well. They're the ones you can count on to keep you from under-tipping at a restaurant and other embarrassing things like that. Unfortunately, sometimes they just can't save you from yourself, no matter how hard they try. For instance, twice in recent months I have written about the fact that I am approaching my fifth decade on the planet. A couple of weeks ago, one of my "numbers-people" friends just couldn't take it any more, and brought to my attention the fact that I am actually sneaking up on my sixth decade. "No offense," he said, "But I'm pretty sure you're not 38." He proceeded to explain that from 0-10 counts as the first ten years, and therefore I am already at the tail-end of my fifth decade. He was making perfect sense, but as soon as the phrase "sixth decade" came out of his mouth, his words began to be drowned out by voices in my head shouting, "Sixth decade! Holy cow! I'm older than dirt! Where did the time go???" I sat there, continuing to nod my head and smile, all the while wondering if I should buy a cane and take out long-term care insurance. I'm pretty sure I may have suffered a mild heart attack as well.

"I just thought you would want to know that," he said as he turned to go.

"Yes," I smiled weakly. "I wouldn't want to keep making THAT mistake."

Of course now I'm disillusioned and severely depressed, but at least I'm mathematically accurate.

See, there's a good reason why I'm a word person. Numbers are just plain evil.



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Loss of rural grocery stores

Continued from page 1

Local grocery stores typically anchor community businesses, said Procter, who noted that, while the lure of big box stores and a more mobile society are factors, changes in food distribution requirements (a minimum weekly order of \$10,000 to \$12,000 is an example), operational costs of older buildings with less efficient heating and cooling systems, a limited labor force and owners who burn out also are factors.

“Meeting the distribution requirements is a huge challenge,” said Procter, who praised tiny Gove, pop. 125, for coming up with a can-do idea that is allowing their store to thrive, and, also, supporting small stores in nearby communities to survive.

“The stores pool their orders to meet distributor’s requirements,” said Procter, who explained the larger order is delivered to the Gove fire station, where food can be separated and then delivered to each of the smaller stores.

“It works,” said Procter, who noted that a third grocery store summit is planned for June 5-6, 2012; conference information will be forthcoming and available on www.ruralgrocery.org.

The loss of a grocery store is an economic development issue, he said.

And, while the loss of a grocery store may be triggered (at least, in part) by a school consolidation, there

is a domino effect, in that when the grocery store closes, other businesses begin to suffer, and, as businesses decline, the community is less able to attract new residents and property values begin to decline.

The economic issue is key, yet nutrition and community health also suffer with the loss of a local grocery store, said Procter, who earlier this year paired with his wife, Sandy, a registered dietitian and K-State Research and Extension nutrition specialist, to speak about the loss of local grocery stores and the nutritional consequences of food insecurity at the California Childhood Obesity Conference.

Sandy Procter is Kansas’ state coordinator for the USDA Expanded Food and Nutrition Education and Family Nutrition Programs, and vocal about her assessment of the situation: “The newly revised USDA dietary guidelines recommend eating a variety of foods for health, but such foods aren’t likely to make it into the diet if they’re not available.”

“Convenience stores, which sometimes try to bridge the gap in a community that has lost its grocery store, usually stock more processed foods that are higher in calories, fat and sodium rather than fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grain cereals and breads, low-fat dairy products and lean meats and poultry recommended for health.



“Variety is key to health,” said Procter, who joins her husband in advocating for local grocery stores.

According to David Procter, “We need to think creatively, explore opportunities, and share ideas with policy makers because a local grocery is critical to the infrastructure of a sustainable rural community.”

“Without action,” he said, “the inability to access food will end rural life as we know it.”

Kansas Soybean hires new operations director

The Kansas Soybean staff now includes a director of operations. In the new position, Adam O’Trimble is responsible for the fiscal, contractual, financial and administrative programs of the Kansas Soybean Association and Kansas Soybean Commission.

“We are delighted to welcome Adam to our staff,” said Kenlon Johannes, the association’s CEO and the commission’s administrator. “He will be a tremendous help in taking our programs to the next level in terms of efficiency and accountability.”

O’Trimble grew up near Perry, northeast of Topeka. He received his bachelor’s degree from Baker University, Baldwin City, where he studied accounting.

Before joining Kansas Soybean, O’Trimble was a customer service representative in policy accounting for Aviva Life and Annuity Co. in Topeka. As an undergraduate, he interned for Rep. Lynn Jenkins in Washington, D.C., and was a student assistant in the university president’s office.

“I’m very happy to have this opportunity. I think my new position as director of operations is a very good fit for me,” O’Trimble said. “It’s close to home and my family, and it’s very much in line with my interests. It combines accounting, business, agriculture, politics and more, and I’m anxious to see how my knowledge and skills might serve Kansas soybean farmers.”

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10 JD 6115D MFWD Tractor w/673 SL Loader, 3 Hrs	07 JD 9760 STS Combine, 3959 Eng Hrs/2726 Sep Hrs	01 Timpfe Grain Trailer
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*Holiday Contest Winner Is
Joyce Maginness, Fostoria*

GRANDSON'S FAVORITE COCONUT PIE
3 tablespoons cornstarch
2/3 cup sugar
1/4 teaspoon salt
3 egg yolks
2 cups half & half
1 cup shredded coconut
1 teaspoon vanilla
9-inch baked pie shell
Meringue
Coconut, for topping

Mix cornstarch, sugar and salt. Add egg yolks and cream well. Gradually add half & half and mix well. Cook until a thick custard forms. Stirring constantly, add vanilla and coconut. Cool slightly and pour into baked shell. Top with meringue, sprinkle 2 tablespoons coconut on top and bake to golden brown.

Margaret Trojan, Beaver Crossing, Neb.:

HOLIDAY SWEET POTATO PIE
2 unbaked pie crusts
8 sweet potatoes (3 cups)
3/4 cup white sugar
2 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla
1/2 stick margarine
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 cup milk

Topping:
1/2 stick margarine
1 cup chopped pecans
3/4 cup flour
1 cup brown sugar

Boil sweet potatoes in jackets and peel. Mash potatoes and mix all ingredients except topping ingredients. Pour into 2 unbaked pie crusts. Mix topping ingredients and sprinkle over potatoes. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes.

Linda Kepka, Dorrance:

PEACH & PUDDING SALAD
2 small boxes peach gelatin
1 small box vanilla pudding
3 cups water
2 cups marshmallows
2 cans sliced peaches with juice

Bring gelatin, pudding, and water to a boil. Stir in marshmallows until dissolved. Add peaches and juice. Pour into 9-by-13-inch pan and chill.

Marla Gillmore, Moundridge:

CARAMEL CHIFFON PIE
28 caramels
1 cup hot water
1 package plain gelatin
1/4 cup cold water
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon vanilla
2/3 cup heavy cream
1 cup chopped pecans

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2011 Grass & Grain Holiday Recipe Contest

Place caramels in hot water in a top of a double boiler and heat. Stir until melted and smooth. Soften gelatin in cold water and add to melted caramels. Stir until dissolved. Add salt and vanilla. Chill until thick. Add whipped cream sweetened with sugar to taste. Add pecans. Put in graham cracker crust. Chill.

Lois Lahodny, Belleville: "I thought this sounded different for a salad for the holidays."


CHERRY-PINEAPPLE CONGEALED SALAD
1 1/2 cups crushed pretzels
1 cup chopped pecans
1/2 cup plus 3 tablespoons sugar, divided
3/4 cup butter, melted
8-ounce package cream cheese, softened
8-ounce container frozen whipped topping, thawed
15-ounce can dark sweet cherries, drained & juice reserved
8-ounce can crushed pineapple, drained & juice reserved
(2) 3-ounce boxes black cherry-flavored gelatin
Garnish: whipped topping

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a 9-by-13-inch baking pan with aluminum foil. In a medium bowl combine pretzels, pecans and 3 tablespoons sugar. Add melted butter, stirring to combine. Press mixture into bottom of prepared pan and bake for 15 minutes. Cool

completely. In a medium bowl beat cream cheese and remaining 1/2 cup sugar at medium speed with a mixer until creamy. Stir in whipped topping. Spread mixture over prepared crust; cover and chill. In a large liquid measuring cup, combine reserved cherry juice and reserved pineapple juice; add enough water to make 3 cups. Pour into a medium saucepan and bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Add gelatin, stirring to dissolve. Remove from heat and stir in cherries and pineapple. Cool for 30 minutes. Cover and chill for 1 hour. Pour cherry mixture over cream cheese layer. Cover and chill for at least 4 hours or until mixture is set. Garnish with whipped topping, if desired.

Rose Edwards, Stillwater, Okla.:

CRANBERRY CHOCOLATE CHUNK COOKIES
2 1/2 cups flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
3/4 cup butter
3/4 cup brown sugar
1/4 cup sugar
3 tablespoons light corn syrup
2 large eggs
2 teaspoons vanilla
1 1/4 cups walnuts, chopped
1 cup dried cranberries
4 ounces white chocolate, chopped
4 ounces chocolate chips, chopped



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Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Line 3 cookies sheets with parchment paper. In bowl beat butter, sugars and corn syrup just until creamy. Beat in eggs and vanilla until blended. Add flour, baking soda and salt in 2 batches until just blended. Stir in two thirds of the walnuts, cranberries and chocolate pieces. Refrigerate dough 15 minutes. Drop dough by rounded tablespoons 2 inches apart. Return remaining dough to refrigerator for next batches. Bake 5 minutes. Working quickly press some of remaining nuts, cranberries and chocolate into cookies. Bake about 6-8 minutes more or until edges are golden brown. Transfer cookies to wire rack to cool completely. Repeat with remaining dough.

Sandy Hill, Eskridge:

OVEN-BAKED APPLE BUTTER
12 pounds apple pulp
6 pounds sugar
1 cup vinegar
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon cloves
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
2 teaspoons cinnamon

Set aside 1 cup sugar and mix with the spices. Press apples through colander. Mix pulp, sugar, salt and vinegar. Let stand overnight. Bake in oven until

quite thick (at 350 degrees). Mix in the cup of sugar and spices and return to the oven for 30 minutes. Place in jars and process for canning.

Karen Saner, Burns:

HOLIDAY CRANBERRY & FRUIT SALAD
1 large head Romaine lettuce
1 cup cashews
1/4 cup sweetened dried cranberries
1 cup chopped apples
1 pear, chopped
3/4 cup shredded Swiss cheese
Dressing:
1/2 cup sugar
1/3 cup fresh lemon juice
2 teaspoons finely chopped onion
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon poppy seed
2/3 cup vegetable oil

Mix dressing ingredients until sugar dissolves. Combine fruits in a small container with some of the dressing. Set aside remaining dressing until ready to serve. At serving time, combine the lettuce, cashews, and sweetened fruit, cheese, and remaining dressing in a large salad bowl. Toss and serve.

NOTE: Make what you need because it doesn't keep well. Leftover dressing will keep fine.

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G&G Announces Its Annual Holiday Recipe Contest

Nov. 22 through Dec. 20

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

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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. 20.

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:
auctions@aggress.com

2011 Grass & Grain Holiday Recipe Contest

Kellee Rogers, Topeka:
INDIVIDUAL FROZEN PEPPERMINT CHEESECAKES
18 vanilla wafers
18 aluminum foil baking cups or paper baking cup
8 ounces cream cheese
14-ounce can sweetened condensed milk
1 cup crushed hard peppermint candy
3 drops red coloring
8-ounce tub thawed & divided frozen whipped topping
Place 1 vanilla wafer in each baking cup. Beat cream cheese at high speed with mixer until creamy. Stir in condensed milk, candy and coloring. Fold in 2 cups whipped topping. Spoon mixture evenly into cups, cover and freeze 2 hours or until firm. Dollop with remaining topping evenly on tops of frozen cheesecakes.

Noel Miller, Maple Hill:
“Here is a really simple recipe for the holiday season! Really easy and really yummy!!”
CRANBERRY SALSA DIP WITH CREAM CHEESE
12-ounce bag or 3 cups fresh cranberries, rinsed & drained (if in a pinch I use the canned whole berry cranberries, 2 small cans)
1/4 cup minced green onions
2 small (approximately 2 tablespoons) jalapeno chili peppers, cored, seeded & minced
1/2 cup granulated sugar

1/4 cup fresh cilantro leaves, minced
2 tablespoons finely grated fresh ginger
2 tablespoons fresh squeezed lemon juice
(2) 8-ounce packages cream cheese
Cranberries and/or cilantro sprigs for garnish
Rinse and drain cranberries. Place them in a food processor; pulse until finely chopped but not mushy. Place crushed cranberries in a bowl; mix together with the onions, jalapeno peppers, sugar, cilantro leaves, ginger, and lemon juice. Stir and cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 4 hours for flavors to develop (I let it sit overnight). On a serving plate, place cream cheese; cover with salsa dip. Garnish. Serve with crackers.

Mrs. Carol Ricketts, Clay Center: “I’m making these today for our ladies coffee in the morning and thought I would share this recipe with our Grass & Grain readers.”
PUMPKIN CHIP MUFFINS
4 eggs
2 cups sugar
16-ounce can pumpkin
1 1/2 cups vegetable oil
3 cups flour
2 teaspoons baking soda
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon salt
2 cups (12 ounces) semisweet mini chocolate chips

In a large bowl beat eggs, sugar, pumpkin and oil until smooth. Combine flour, baking soda, baking powder, cinnamon and salt; add to pumpkin mixture and mix well. Fold in chocolate chips. Fill paper-lined muffin cups 3/4 full. Bake at 400 degrees for 16 to 20 minutes or until done. Makes 36 cupcake size muffins.

Shirley Deiser, Kanopolis: “You save a lot of calories by baking eggplant patties.”

SKINNY EGGPLANT PARMESAN
1/2 cup fat-free milk
1 cup dry bread crumbs
2 teaspoons Italian seasoning, divided
1 large eggplant, peeled & cut into 1/2-inch slices
1/2-pound sliced mushrooms
1 cup chopped onion
2 teaspoons olive oil
2 garlic cloves, minced
8 fresh basil leaves, thinly sliced
24-ounce jar marinara sauce
1/4 cup shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese
1/4 cup dry red wine or vegetable broth
3/4 cup part-skim ricotta cheese
1/4 cup shredded Parmesan cheese
Place milk in a shallow

bowl. In another shallow bowl combine bread crumbs and 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning. Dip eggplant in milk then in bread crumb mixture. Place on baking sheet coated with cooking spray. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 or 40 minutes or until tender. Meanwhile, in a large skillet, saute mushrooms and onion in oil; add garlic and cook 1 minute longer. Remove from heat and stir in basil and remaining Italian seasoning. Spread 1/2 cup marinara sauce into a 2-quart baking dish coated with cooking spray. In a small bowl combine wine and remaining marinara sauce. Layer with half of eggplant mushroom mixture, mozzarella cheese, ricotta cheese and 3/4 cup sauce mixture. Repeat layers. Top with remaining sauce and sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes or until heated through.

Joyce Jandera, Hanover: “This was a new recipe for my family last Thanksgiving, but became a family favorite! When I ask what veggie they would like for a meal it’s ‘Brussel Sprouts.’ It truly changes the flavor of brussel

sprouts. We will have these for Thanksgiving and Christmas this year. Hope all like them that try this recipe.”
MAPLE & BACON GLAZED BRUSSEL SPROUTS
5 strips bacon, chopped
1/4 cup chopped pecans
3 tablespoons butter
1/4 teaspoon salt
2 pounds fresh brussel sprouts, trimmed
1/2 cup chicken broth
1/4 cup pure maple syrup
1/4 teaspoon pepper

In a small skillet cook bacon over medium heat until crisp. Remove to paper towels with a slotted spoon. Drain well. Meanwhile, cut an “X” in the core of each brussel sprout. In a large skillet, saute brussel sprouts in butter for 4 to 5 minutes or until lightly browned. Stir in the broth, pecans, maple syrup, salt and pepper. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat. Cover and simmer for 5 minutes. Uncover and cook and stir 8 to 10 minutes longer or until sprouts are tender-crisp. Sprinkle with bacon. Makes 4 servings.

Mary Rogers, Topeka:
BROWN SUGAR PECAN COOKIES
2 1/2 cups flour
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 1/2 cups brown sugar
1 cup butter
2 large eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 1/2 cups chopped pecans
Pecan halves for decorating

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line 4 cookie sheets with parchment paper. Whisk flour, baking soda and salt. In bowl with mixture beat brown sugar and butter until creamy. Beat in eggs one at a time beating well. Beat in vanilla. Beat in flour mixture gradually until blended. With wooden spoon stir in chopped pecans. Drop dough by rounded teaspoon 2 inches apart onto cookie sheets. Bake 12 minutes or until golden brown. If decorating bake 6 minutes remove from oven. Press pecan half in center of each cookie. Bake 6 minutes longer or until golden brown. Transfer to wire rack to cool.

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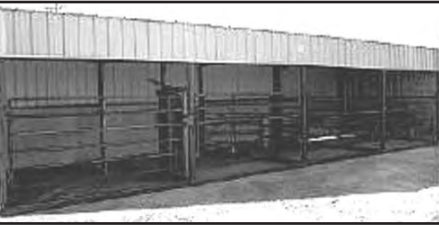
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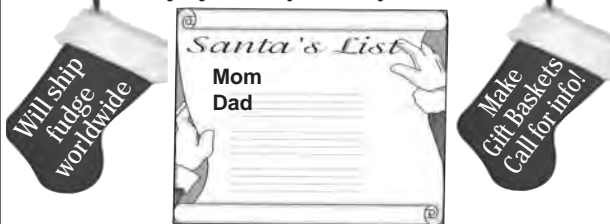
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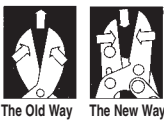
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2011 Grass & Grain Holiday Recipe Contest

Marcile Shippy, Woodbine: "An old favorite that I've used for many years. Tastes like good pumpkin pie, except you get more servings!"

PUMPKIN PIE SQUARES
1 cup flour
1/2 cup quick-cook oats
1/2 cup brown sugar, packed
1/2 cup butter, softened

Mix until crumbly. Press into ungreased 9-by-13-inch pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes.

Combine:
15-ounce can pure pumpkin (or 2 cups)
12-ounce can evaporated milk
2 eggs
3/4 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ginger
1/4 teaspoon cloves

Beat well, pour into hot crust. Return to oven and bake for 30 minutes.

Combine:
1/2 cup chopped pecans
1/2 cup brown sugar, packed
2 tablespoons butter, softened

Mix well, sprinkle over pumpkin filling. Return to oven and bake 15-20 minutes more or until filling is set. Cool in pan, cut into squares and top with whipped topping or vanilla ice cream.

Lucille Wohler, Clay Center:
CORN SOUFFLE

1 regular can corn, drained
1 regular can cream corn
1 stick butter, softened
8 ounces sour cream
1 box Jiffy corn muffin mix
Salt & pepper

Mix all together and bake 1 hour at 350 degrees.

Darlene Thomas, Delphos: "You can add raisins, nuts, dried cranberries, blueberries or cherries. These are moist and keep well and freeze well. Makes 12 good muffins."

HEALTHY MUFFINS WITH WHOLE WHEAT FLOUR & ZUCCHINI
Muffins:

1 cup whole wheat flour
2/3 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 1/4 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 large egg
1 1/3 cups finely shredded zucchini
1/2 cup milk
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
2 tablespoons honey

Topping:
1 tablespoon sugar
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Spray or grease muffin tins. In a large bowl

whisk together the 2 flours and then whisk in the next 5 ingredients. At this point stir in any nuts or fruits you may choose to add. In another bowl beat the egg and stir in the remaining ingredients until well combined. Make a well in the center of the dry ingredients and add the zucchini mixture, stir only until moist. Resist the temptation to overmix as the batter will be lumpy. Gently spoon the dough into muffin cups.

For the topping: Combine sugar and cinnamon and with your fingers sprinkle over muffin tops. Bake 15 minutes until golden or test with toothpick. Cool a bit on a wire rack and then remove from pans.

Kellee Rogers, Topeka:
RED VELVET CHEESECAKE BARS
24 Oreo cookies, finely crushed
1/4 cup butter, melted
6 squares bakers semisweet chocolate, divided
3-ounce package cream cheese
3/4 cup sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla

3 eggs
1 tablespoon red food coloring

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Mix cookie crumbs and butter, press onto bottom of a 9-by-13-inch pan sprayed with spray. Melt 4 chocolate squares as directed on package and pour into bowl; set aside. Beat cream cheese, sugar and vanilla with mixer until blended. Add eggs, beat just until blended. Remove 2 cups batter and mix with melted chocolate and food coloring. Carefully spread over crust, cover with remaining plain batter. Bake 26-28 minutes or until center is almost set. Cool completely. Melt remaining chocolate and drizzle over dessert. Refrigerate 4 hours.

Millie Conger, Tecumseh:
HONEY DINNER ROLLS
1/3 cup plus 1 tablespoon honey
1 package yeast
4 1/2 cups flour plus more for surface
1/4 cup dry buttermilk powder
1 1/2 teaspoons salt
1/4 cup milk
2 large eggs

3 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted

In bowl, combine 1/2 cup warm water (110 degrees), 1/3 cup honey and yeast. Stir to dissolve yeast. Set aside until mixture becomes frothy on top about 5 minutes. In a bowl combine 4 cups flour, buttermilk powder and salt. Stir in yeast mixture. Whisk milk, eggs and 2 tablespoons melted butter. Stir egg mixture into flour mixture and combine until dough comes together. Add 1/2 cup flour if dough is too sticky. Knead dough on floured surface until smooth about 5-8 minutes. Place dough in a buttered bowl. Cover bowl with plastic wrap and let rise at room temperature until doubled in size about 45 minutes. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Divide dough into 16 equal pieces and shape into balls. Butter two 9-inch round pans and place 1 ball of dough in the center of each. Evenly space remaining dough balls

around pan. Cover and let rise at room temperature for 20 minutes. In bowl mix 1 tablespoon honey and 1 tablespoon melted butter. Lightly brush mixture over top of rolls. Bake until golden 20-25 minutes. Cool in pans for 15 minutes then turn out onto a wire rack.

Millie Conger, Tecumseh:
CRANBERRY

GLAZE FOR HAM
(2) 14-ounce cans whole berry cranberry sauce
1 cup orange juice
3/4 cup brown sugar
1 1/2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice

In a pan combine all ingredients and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium low and simmer for 20 minutes until glaze has thickened. This covers an 8-10 pound ham. Drizzle 1 cup glaze over ham. After 30 minutes brush ham with additional sauce.

Note: Can serve glaze on the side also.

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2011 Grass & Grain Holiday Recipe Contest

Shirley Deiser, Kanopolis:
"Great for Christmas dinner."
VEGETABLE

STUFFING BAKE

1 medium onion, chopped
1 tablespoon canola oil
(2) 10 3/4-ounce cans condensed cream of mushroom soup, undiluted
1 cup process cheese sauce
16-ounce package California mix, thawed
16-ounce package frozen corn, thawed
1 package frozen broccoli, thawed

1 package frozen brussels sprouts, thawed
6-ounce package cornbread stuffing mix, divided

In a large skillet saute onions in oil until tender. Stir in soup and cheese sauce until blended and heat through. In a large bowl combine the vegetables and 1 cup stuffing mix. Add soup mixture and mix well. Transfer to 2 baking dishes. Sprinkle with remaining stuffing mix and bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes or until vegetables are tender.

Kellee Rogers, Topeka:
NUTTY

PEPPERMINT CANDY

1 1/2 cups salted macadamia nuts, chopped

Half of a 16-oz. package vanilla-flavored candy coating

1/3 cup crushed peppermint candy

Line a small baking sheet with foil. Spray with cooking spray. In a bowl, melt coating, stir in nuts. Spread mixture into about an 8-by-6-inch rectangle on baking sheet, sprinkle with peppermint candy. Let stand in a cool place 4-6 hours or until set. Break into small pieces.

Sandy Hill, Eskridge:

SPICY CARROT

FRENCH FRIES

2 pounds carrots, peeled & cut into matchsticks
4 tablespoons olive oil, divided
1 tablespoon seasoned salt
2 teaspoon ground cumin
1 teaspoon chili powder
1 teaspoon pepper
Ranch salad dressing

Place carrots in a plastic zipping bag. Sprinkle with 3 tablespoons oil and seasonings and toss to coat. Drizzle remaining oil over a baking sheet and place carrots in a single layer on sheet. Bake uncovered at 425 degrees for 25 to 35 minutes, until carrots are golden. Serve with salad dressing for dipping. Serves 4 to 6.

Kellee Rogers, Topeka:

CREAM CHEESE

SHORTBREAD

& WALNUTS

2 cups flour
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup walnuts, chopped
1 1/2 sticks unsalted butter
4 ounces cream cheese
3/4 cup sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla

In a bowl whisk flour and salt. Add chopped walnuts and stir to combine; set aside. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In bowl of mixer beat butter, cream cheese and sugar on medium speed until light yellow and fluffy about 3 minutes. Scrape down sides as needed. Add vanilla and mix for 1 minute. Reduce speed and gradually add flour mixture and mix 20 seconds. Take bowl off mixer and finish mixing dough with rubber spatula. Roll about 1 1/2 tablespoon of dough into a ball. Place on parchment-lined baking sheet and gently press to flatten top. Repeat with remaining dough spacing 1 inch apart. Bake cookies until light brown around edges, 14-16 minutes. Transfer to wire rack to cool.



Making time for the good stuff

By Lou Ann Thomas

These days I feel busier than a squirrel at the House of Nuts. In fact, some days I feel as though I'm living in a house of nuts. During what should be the most joyful time of year, I often feel I'm walking a tight rope made of my last nerve.

The busyness of this season really hit me when a friend called to invite me to dinner and to share some holiday cheer. Although having dinner with my old friend sounded like a lot of fun and something I really wanted to do, my seemingly never-ending to-do lists and filled to the brim calendar made me decline the offer.

But what is time and who is in charge of it? There isn't a big clock and time keeper somewhere doling out time for us, is there? The only real thing about time seems to be what we do with it. We can fill our time, waste our time, spend our time and wish we had more time, but it's our choice what we do with the time we have.

If I get so busy I move through my days with my head down, plowing onward to the next task, not really noticing the amazing things around me or slowing down enough to savor a meal or revel in laughter with a friend I begin to feel more harried than happy and more poutiness than peacefulness. That's not how I want to spend my time.

Sometimes one of the best gifts we can give those we love is our time - time to relax, laugh, talk, listen, and simply be with them.

So, the shopping, the cooking and the vacuuming can wait, I have some dinner plans to make.

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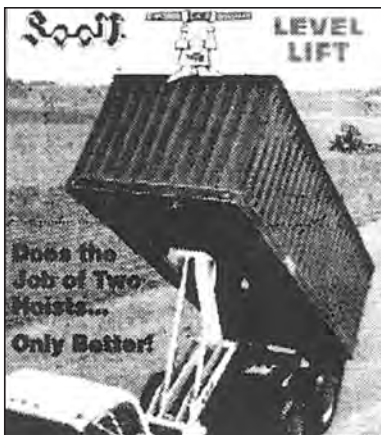
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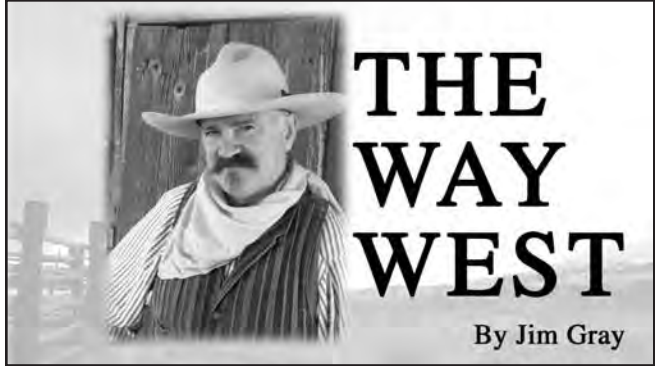
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Turkey Hunting Adventures

William Sternberg was one of ten children born to Levi and Margaret Sternberg. The family established themselves at an early date in Ellsworth County near Fort Ellsworth. Will's older brother George was the surgeon at the military post. George persuaded Levi, a Lutheran minister to bring his family west, establish a ranch and reap the rewards from providing produce, milk, and beef to the fort. Turkey hunting be-

came one of Will's favorite activities. Every wooded stream and every ravine seemed to be alive with wild turkeys, and over the years "many a royal bird" fell before him.

Winter snow provided the perfect opportunity for fun and adventure. Will took great delight in flushing flocks of wild turkeys while galloping on horseback over the prairie. Once they landed it was an easy task to pick up their tracks

in the snow and flush them again. He would keep flushing them until they became tired. The exhausted birds would not flush as a flock but would allow Will to approach them, "making it an easy matter to get as many as you can carry." When there was no snow on the ground more conventional means of hunting were required. One particular turkey hunt in December of 1867 turned into a memorable adventure. Will and his older brother, Theodore, walked along Ash Creek, a tributary near a "badlands" horseshoe bend of the Smoky Hill River, approximately a mile west of Sternberg's Cottonwood Ranch. Deep ravines filled with wild sumac provided perfect habitat for

turkeys. The boys soon discovered a large flock feeding in a patch of sumac at the bottom of a short ravine. Will crawled into a narrow and well concealed location from the upper reaches of the ravine and waited. Theodore made a wide circuit around and below the ravine, being careful not to alarm the turkeys as they quietly fed beneath the cover of dense sumac branches. Theodore pulled off his task perfectly, catching the hidden turkeys completely by surprise. Instead of flying, the flock ran directly towards Will, but as they ran past the young hunter, he excitedly began using his shotgun as a club, swinging wildly without so much as one blow taking effect. Realizing that danger

was so near, the turkeys finally flushed into the air. "As they took flight, I remembered what the gun was for and fired quickly killing a fine young gobbler." That would make at least one turkey for the table. He later recalled. "Had I kept cool, being a good shot, I should have killed several of them."

But the day's adventures had just begun. The boys bagged two more birds before they turned toward home. The warm winter day

turned unpleasant as a cold wind forced them to seek shelter by walking in the bed of the creek. The boys were lost in the things that boys do; talking, joking, and having fun along the way. As they neared the river the young men walked over the creek bank to suddenly find themselves in the very midst of an Indian encampment. "Instinctively, we both dropped to our stomachs in the hope of escaping observation, but they had seen us, so with as much



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calmness as we could assume, although greatly alarmed, we arose and walked into the camp."

As Will explained it, "Happily for us, they proved to be a large party of friendly Kaws on their annual buffalo hunt." The Kansas people were commonly referred to as the Kaw and traditionally camped in that bend of the Smoky when traveling to their hunting grounds. The camp was bustling with activity as the band moved quickly to set up their lodges. The storm enveloped them along the banks of Ash Creek while women were hustling up the tepees and children gathered bundles of dry brush for the fires. Few in the camp paid any attention to the young hunters. However, one brave was attracted to the pistol that Will was carrying on his hip. Imagine Will's surprise when the Indian suddenly leaned forward and deftly drew the pistol from its holster. Taking quick aim "at a small blazed spot on a tree about sixty feet away, he fired, and gave a pleased chuckle as he handed me the pistol... He had fairly centered the mark." The boys were happy to continue their trek home and conversation around the supper table surely turned to the amazing turkey hunting adventures that could be encountered 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 *Kansas Cowboy*, Box 62, Ellsworth, KS 67439. Phone 785-531-2058 or www.droversmercantile.com.

Incomes more sensitive to price declines on cash rent farms

Grain farms with a higher percentage of acres cash rented will have much lower incomes when commodity prices decline than farms with lower percentages cash rented, according to University of Illinois agricultural economist Gary Schnitkey.

Schnitkey used a 1,200-acre cash grain farm to illustrate four different price scenarios. The farm has expected yields of 187 bushels of corn and 54 bushels of soybeans, grows corn on two-thirds of its acres, has non-land costs of \$546 per acre for corn and \$306 per acre for soybeans, and has \$480,000 of debt.

The four price scenarios are as follows.

1. Projected 2012 prices (\$5.40 for corn, \$11.70 for soybeans)
2. Long-run prices (\$4.50 for corn, \$10.50 for soybeans)
3. Low-price year (\$3.50 for corn, \$8.20 for soybeans)
4. Poor-price year (\$3.00 for corn, \$7.00 for soybeans)

Incomes are generated for a typical farm with 10 percent of acres owned, 30 percent share rented, and 60 percent cash rented (\$275 per acre cash rent). The typical farm is compared to a farm that cash rents 100 percent of its acres for two cash-rent levels: \$275 per acre and \$350 per acre.

For the complete report and details on all four scenarios, visit www.farmdoc.dailymail.com/2011/11/incomes_more_sensitive_to_price.html

"Projected 2012 prices of \$5.40 per bushel for corn and \$11.70 per bushel for soybeans result in above-average incomes, and most

farms would have good financial incomes," Schnitkey said. "Price reductions to long-run averages result in lower incomes, particularly for farms with high percentages of cash rent. At high cash rents, farms with 100 percent of their farm cash rented would have negative incomes. Lower prices would result in further reductions in net incomes," he said.

When lower commodity prices occur, farms with high amounts of cash rents will face difficult decisions, Schnitkey explained.

"Attempts may be made to lower cash rents so large financial losses do not occur," Schnitkey said. "Alternatively, these farms will have to absorb financial losses under the hope that commodity prices turn upward quickly so that the farm moves into a positive income situation."



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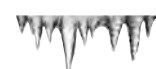
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Flint Hills Smoke Management Plan: Preparing for year two

By Carol Blocksom
The Flint Hills Smoke Management Plan (SMP) was initiated in spring 2011 for Kansans who conduct spring prescribed burning in the Flint Hills. The goal of the plan is to reduce the movement of smoke plumes from Flint Hills burning into large metropolitan areas, and minimize the number of days of ozone exceedances in those cities.

The plan called for voluntary compliance from those who conduct prescribed burns on rangelands, and regulated non-agricultural burning in selected counties during the month of April. No changes to the SMP for the 2012 burn season are planned, although there will be some changes to the website for 2012 (described later in this article). A full copy of the plan and a summary document can be found at www.ksfire.org/

Due to the short time between the passage of the legislation enacting the SMP and the beginning of the burn season in the spring of 2011, there was an intense effort to educate local emergency management officials and agricultural producers about the SMP. Following the burn season, two surveys were conducted on the effectiveness of the outreach effort, the ways in which Kansans responded to the SMP, and how prescribed burning activity may have been altered for smoke management purposes.

About 50 producers in 12 counties completed the "burn boss" survey. K-State Extension, public meetings, and newspaper articles, as well as word-of-mouth, were cited by producers as the most common sources of information about the SMP. Over half

looked at the information on the website. About half of the producers read the smoke forecast discussions on the website, and about 30 percent reported modifying their prescribed burning decisions based on smoke management considerations. Modifications included burning on a different day, and burning during March rather than April.

About 30 county emergency management officials (sheriffs, emergency managers, fire chiefs, and dispatchers) in seven counties completed the emergency manager survey. K-State Extension, intra-agency memos, word-of-mouth, and newspaper articles were cited by emergency management officials as the most common sources of information about the SMP. About 70 percent felt that they had been adequately informed about the plan prior to the 2011 burn season. Many county staff members spent time explaining the SMP to the public and fielding inquiries about the April burning restrictions. The most commonly observed change in prescribed burn-

ing practices was burning earlier or later than normal (March and May).

Unfortunately, there were four days with ozone exceedances in Kansas last year, the most ever recorded, due in part to some complicating factors. About 30% of the counties in the Flint Hills region reported heavier than normal fuel loads for spring 2011. Wildfires in Texas and Oklahoma contributed to air quality exceedances in Kansas as prevailing winds moved smoke north. About 2.6 million acres in the Flint Hills are estimated to have burned in 2011, which is 108 percent of the 10-year average. While there was use of the website modeling tool to determine where the smoke plume would go, fire safety was considered the most important factor when planning a burn. Days with good smoke dispersion were also often too windy for safe burning.

The www.ksfire.org website will be updated for the 2012 burn season, with improved modeling tools and a section for emergency management staff. Outreach for producers will

continue with the incorporation of smoke management topics into upcoming burn workshops and other meetings. Other outreach efforts are being planned, with an overall objective of decreasing ozone exceedances in 2012. Due to dry conditions and exceptionally heavy grazing this summer, it is anticipated that there will be lower fuel loads and fewer acres burnt this coming burn season, which would reduce smoke production from prescribed burning.

Copper wire, dairy equipment theft prompts KLA to offer reward

KLA is offering a reward up to \$2,500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of thieves who stole equipment from the Santa Fe Trail Dairy in Grant County. Those committing the crime broke into the locked facility and stole substantial amounts of copper wire, including some from underground. Some milking equipment also was taken in the theft.

This qualifies for the KLA theft reward program because Santa Fe Trail is a member of the association. The reward is offered in cases where livestock, equipment, tack or pharmaceuticals are stolen from a KLA member.

The Grant County sheriff's office is investigating the theft. Anyone with information on the persons involved or the whereabouts of the wiring or equipment should call (620) 356-3500.

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COLLECTIBLES: Large globe in antique wood display stand, very nice; tapestry covered antique footstool, needlepoint; various cookie cutters; various wicker baskets; brass bud vase, 9 inches tall; various cut glass vases; Mexican pottery; 4 wicker baskets; Japanese fishing net float; large squirrel nut cracker; various knick knacks; spring hobby horse, riding type; camel saddle.

GENERAL HOUSEHOLD: Various Corningware cooking items; various bake tins; microwave cook; Pyrex dishes; approx. 300 VHS cassettes; 220 DVDs; approx. 550 books; Argus C-3 camera; Olympus OMG camera with electronic flash unit; Vivitar T200 camera; Sunpak auto 222 electronic flash unit; card table; various Christmas decorations; large tree stand; various tree ornaments.

YARD CARE & GENERAL TOOLS: (5) 32" tree lopper; higher tree branch trimmer with app. 40 inches of poles; new spade; shovels, axes, hatchet, sledge hammers, claw hammers, rakes, side walk edger and other like items; Ace 24 inch level; 2 push snow plows; hanging bird bath/feeder, new; various squares, files, screw drivers, battery powered screw driver; crescent wrenches, 12", 10", 8", 4"; various other wrenches; Craftsman 3/8 electric drill; Craftsman drill bit set; various hardware used around the home.

BICYCLES & EXERCISE EQUIP.: Huffy TransAmerica bicycle; Schwinn Woodlands, mountain bike; 3 safety helmets; rear bumper car mount bike carrier; AirTool bicycle tire pump with dial pressure gauge; Mag trainer; Schwinn DX900 floor exerciser bike; pedal exerciser.

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AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: Christopher & Ann Smith are retired professors from K-State and are moving to the state of Washington to be with their daughter. There are a lot of small items too numerous to mention on the auction. Hope to see you at the auction.

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Forty Kansas counties join Rural Opportunity Zones partnership

Forty of the 50 eligible Kansas counties have joined the Rural Opportunity Zones (ROZs) partnership, and 127 applicants from across the country have applied to the student loan forgiveness program, according to the Kansas Department of Commerce.

"We are pleased to have an 80 percent participation rate in the Rural Opportunity Zones partnership, but we hope to have a 100 percent participation rate," said Kansas commerce secretary Pat George. "The response to the program has been great and should only get better as the remaining counties opt in. ROZs are proving to be a key incentive in recruiting individuals and families into rural Kansas."

The ROZs program offers student loan forgiveness of up to \$3,000 per year for five years for individuals that graduate from an accredited post-secondary college or technical school. In addition, people moving from out-of-state could be eligible for 100 percent state income tax reimbursement, if they have lived outside of Kansas for at least the past five years and have had Kansas source income of less than \$10,000 per year

over the past five years.

The counties participating in student loan forgiveness program, so far, are Barber, Cheyenne, Clark, Cloud, Decatur, Edwards, Graham, Greeley, Greenwood, Hamilton, Harper, Hodgeman, Jewell, Kearny, Kingman, Kiowa, Lane, Lincoln, Logan, Marion, Mitchell, Morton, Ness, Norton, Phillips, Pratt, Rawlins, Rooks, Rush, Russell, Scott, Sherman, Smith, Stafford, Stanton, Thomas, Trego, Wallace, Wichita and Woodson.

A few counties have joined with businesses and nonprofit organizations to help provide funds for student loan repayment, George said.

"Some counties have been very innovative in looking for ways to raise money to provide for their part of the incentive, and we certainly want to encourage that activity," George added.

Applicants have applied to 35 of the 40 participating counties, and many of the applicants are recent college graduates. Of the 127 applicants: 35 are working in education; 24 are working in health care (nurses, physicians, and chiropractors); three are engineers; three are veterinarians; and 82 have

family connections to rural Kansas. Four of the applicants plan to start businesses in a ROZs county.

Forty-two of the applicants are moving to a ROZs county from outside the state: 11 from Colorado; four from Nebraska; three from Oklahoma; three from Missouri; two from Arkansas; two from Michigan; three from Iowa; two from Alabama; two from North Carolina; two from Penn-

sylvania; and one each from Kentucky, Ohio, South Carolina, New York, Texas, California, Tennessee and Florida.

The application form for the student loan repayment program is available online on the Department's website at KansasCommerce.com/RuralOpportunityZones. A printed version of the form can be requested by contacting Dan Lara, public information

officer for the Department, at (785) 296-3760 or dlara@kansascommerce.com.

The state tax exemption is entirely state financed, so all ROZs-designated counties are automatic participants in that part of the program. There is not a formal application procedure for this part of the program. Questions about the tax

exemption should be directed to the Department of Revenue at (785) 368-8222.

The program designates 50 counties as ROZs counties. In addition to those already listed above, the others are Chautauqua, Comanche, Elk, Gove, Osborne, Pawnee, Republic, Sheridan, Washington and Wilson.



These women were elected to serve as American Angus Auxiliary officers during Angus events in conjunction with the 2011 North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) Super Point Roll of Victory (ROV) Angus Show. Pictured from left are Barbara Ettredge, Pilot Point, Texas, advisor; Anne Lampe, Scott City, president; Cortney Hill-Dukehart-Cates, Modoc, Ind., president-elect; and Cortney Holshouser, Castalia, N.C., secretary-treasurer. Photo by Shauna Hermel, Angus Journal.

AUCTION

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 — 12:00 PM

Auction held at the Morris County 4-H building 1 mile EAST of COUNCIL GROVE, KS on 56 Hwy

GUNS

Remington 870 Ducks Unlimited 12 ga. 2 3/4 ch; Winchester 1500 XTR 12 ga. 2 3/4 ch, semi auto; Remington 870 12 ga. 2 3/4 ch, pump; Glenfield #60, semi auto 22, tube feed; Single shot 12 ga; Daisy Powerline BB gun; Daisy pump BB gun; Gun cabinet, holds 8, very nice.

ANTIQUE FURNITURE

Hoosier, porcelain top, frosted glass panels, flour bin; Oak secretary, curved glass door; Keller china hutch; (2) Oak high chairs, converts to desk; Oak table, spool leg, claw ball foot; Numerous oak fern tables; Rd dining table w/ 2 leaves, 6 chairs, pedestal, claw foot; Oak dining table, 3 leaves, 5 chairs; Numerous oak rockers; Oak Singer cabinet, treadle, w/ head; Numerous oak dining room chairs; Several oak and wood desks; Oak frame beveled glass mirrors; Oak captain chair; (2) oak quilt wall racks; Oak hall trees; smoking stand; Oak wash stand; Numerous oak chests; organ stool; (2) Gentleman valise; Waterfall frt chest; Waterfall frt cedar chest; Bedroom set(s), full head board, dresser, chest; Full box springs and mattress sets; Wood commode chair w/ blk rim porcelain bucket; 3 cushion couch, dual recliner; Pedestal globe; Kenmore upright freezer, 7 cf; Oreck upright vacuum; Lasco heater tower; misc sm appliances; pots & pans; Table lamps; 8' pool table w/ balls.

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES
Violin in wood case, very old(?150 yr) Hopf ?; Daisy butter churn, #10, wood paddle; Ruilmar oak ringer washer; Mantel clock w/ key; (2) oak coffee grinders; (2)hog scrapers; Wood battery box; butter press; stoneware foot warmer; Standard oil samples; Skelly tube repair kit can; 1920 coin bank, Wayne gas pump; Quilts; Cigarette roller; cig papers; Camer cigar can; cigar boxes; Wood iron board w/ sleeve

More items all categories, too numerous to mention.

For complete listing and pictures go to www.macyrealtyauction.homestead.com or www.kansasauctions.net

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Auctioneers: Carey Macy, Steve Patterson, Colter Macy
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board; Wood straw rake; wood viewer w/ case and cards; Mini porcine bed pan; porcelain coffee pot; Porcelain pitcher / bowl; wood egg crates; Crock butter churn, bl leaf #4 Pittsburg Pottery crock #5; Redwing crock w/ emblem & wing, 20 gal, line crack; Metal toys- (2) Amoco semi tank trucks, Tonka grader, Tonka dump truck; (5) candle holders for Christmas tree; numerous oil lamps; Old depot sack cart; 5 gal Standard oil measurer; 2 gal cream can; metal soap holder; Sad irons; cast trivet; metal milk crates; Metal Rainbow Bread screen door guard; Indian pictures; J Kyle goose picture; Wayne Willis quail picture Lone wolf pic; DU decanters; Purple Power decanters; Hereford bull statue.

GLASSWARE

Anchor Hocking duck beverage glasses; Several pcs each-green oatmeal dishes, pink dep, amber dep; Carnival candy dish; Green dep juicer; pedestal compote; Refrigerator bottle; Relish dishes; covered butter; Etched monogrammed (H) beverage set (24 pc); (4) McCoy platters; blue USA pitcher; Silver set (8); Silver pastry forks; Numerous knitting needles; Happy meal toys; Furbies, in box; (3) historical CG buckles.

PATIO & SHOP ITEMS

B & D frt tine tiller; Craftsman leaf blower / vacuum; 3/4 hp bench grinder, dbl mandrel; Craftsman tool cabinet; 20gal shop vac; Pipe furniture clamps; wood block & tackle 2 in 1; Barrel oil dispensers; misc shovels & tools; Cosco step stools; Patio table & 6 chairs; (2) platform swivel rockers; Metal chairs; metal rockers; Charbroil cooker; Pflueger Oceanic openfaced reel, lg; Several rods & reels: misc fishing tackle; Wood folding picnic table; Coleman 10' fishing boat w/ 3 hp outboard motor; Trolling motor w/ fish finder.

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

CHASE COUNTY, KANSAS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10 — 1:30 PM

Auction Location: Saffordville Community Building. From Emporia, 8 miles West on Highway 50 to ZZ Road and South to Building.

40 ACRES

Location of Land: From Emporia, West of Emporia, 7 miles on Highway 50 and North on YY road 5 miles.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: The Southeast 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 14, Township 18 South, Range 9 East of the 6th PM, Chase County, KS.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: 25 acres of East Buckeye creek bottom cropland, balance pasture, creek and wildlife habitat.

TAXES: 2011 taxes were \$250.50. Seller to pay 2011 taxes.

TERMS: \$5,000.00 as earnest money day of auction. Balance of purchase price at closing prior to December 30, 2011. Purchaser to pay 1/2 the cost of an owner's policy of title insurance.

POSSESSION: At closing, subject to the rights of the agricultural tenant.

NOTE: This is the first time this land has been offered for sale since 1950. Small acreage, Great hunting, good cropland, good investment!

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ANNUAL INVENTORY REDUCTION

AUCTION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10 — 11:00 AM

Auction Location: 39706 Business Hwy 10 West — RICHMOND, MISSOURI 64085

Directions: From Highway 65 at Carrollton, MO exit take Hwy 10 West 30 miles to Richmond, MO From I-70 & Hwy 13 junction take Hwy.13 North approx.. 30 miles to Richmond, MO. The dealership is located on bus. Highway 10 west, Richmond, MO

JD Financing available for qualified end user buyers. Please call for credit application and to check on low rate financing as low as 2.9 on tractors and 3.9 on combines for qualified purchasers For pre-approval, please contact Marty or George at 816-776-2261. Deadline for Financing is December 7, 2011

SPRAYERS: 2006 JD 4720 ser#N04720X005950, 1150 hrs, 90' boom, markers, 800 gal SS tank, Hyd tread Adj, educator, radar, fenders; Bestway Field Pro II ser#RHS91278, 1000 gal tank, hyd pump, 60'boom hyd fold & height, raven cont, inductor wash tank, markers, tee jet 3 way nozzles (1 set only), 12.4 x 38 tires.

TRACTORS: 2010 JD 9330 ser#RW9330P016662, 777 hrs, 480x46, PS, autotrak rdy, std comf pkg, diff lock, 48gpm pump, dual radar; 2005 JD 9520T ser#RW9520T 905079, 1977 hrs, 30" tracks, bare-back, 4 scv's, dlx comfort pkg, buddy, grnstar ready; 2009 CAT MT 755C AGCO0755ANUB010070, 535.80 hrs, 25" tracks, 5 scv's, 3pt w quick hitch, pto, 20 front weights; 2010 JD 8345R ser#RW8345RPAD009630, 400hrs, MFWD, ILS, IVT; 2010 JD 8320R ser#RW8320RHAP009695, 452 hrs, MFWD, dlx cab&act seat, autotrak rdy, radar, fenders, 85cc hyd pump, 480\50's; 2009 JD 8295R ser#1RW8295RH9P003198, 939hrs, MFWD, 480-46Duals, 4 scv's, fenders; 2010 JD 8245R ser#RW8245R 004297, 779 hrs, MFWD, auto trk rdy, 4 scv's, fend, mirrors, 60gpm pump, 480x46, duals; 2010 JD 8225R ser#RW8225REAP009161, 732 hrs, MFWD, dlx cab, cmd arm, autotrak rdy, radar, fenders, 85cc pump, 480x46; 2007 JD 7930 ser#RW7930D006282, 1437 hrs, MFWD, 4 scv's, fenders, leather, loaded, 710/70/42, sells with 746 loader ser#W00746C005830; 1985 JD 4450 ser#RW4450P005507, 3800 hrs, PS, 3 scv's, 480/80/32 duals; 1981 JD 4440 ser#4440H 040633R, 9650hrs, 1000 hrs on OH, 2 scv's, PS, 18.4x38, sells with 158 loader E0150003136W; 1980 JD 2940 ser#2940ST361123L, 6542 hrs, 2wd, 2 scv's, ROPS & Canopy, 16.9 x 38, 70%, sells with 440 GB loader (441064); 2010 JD 4120 ser#LV4120H710148, 163 hrs 4x4 R4 tires, hydro, 72" Ziron deck; 1965 JD 4020 ser#SNT213K097435F, 900 hrs on OH, PS, 1 scv. 18.4x34; 1994 JD 855 ser#LV0855D181273, 1070 hrs, 4x4, turf tires, 72" belly mower, 3pt, pto; Ford Workmaster.

DOZER: CAT D5C LPG ser#6PJ00195, 7309 hrs, Newer tracks, pins and UC. Hyd tilt blade, new paint. Series III.

FEED TRUCK: 1990 IHC 4900, vin#1HTSDZ4PLH288505, 113068 miles, DT466 motor, AllisonTrans, 2spd rear end, Has Harsh 375H hydraulic feed bed with digital scales.

COMBINES: Several good used late model one to two years old used combines are coming in. These will be low houred machines. Several cornheads and platforms by the day of the sale.

2008 JD 9670 ser#H09670S727158, s-487hrs e-873hrs, 4x4, prem cab, dlx hdr cont, hd fnl drvs, 2spd, ch cs, tank, rb conc, 800-70r-38; 2005 JD 9760 ser#H09760S711345, s-2020hrs e-3038hrs, 4x4, rb conc, dlx hdr cont, hd final dr, 35.5X32C&R; 2007 JD 9660 STS ser#H09660S 721361, s-928hrs, 4X4, Dlx cab, dlx hdr cont, reg lift cylls, rb conc, hd final drvs, 800-65-32; 2005 JD 9660 STS ser#H09660S712516, s-1202 hrs e1750hrs, 4x4, dlx hdr cont, rb conc, hd fnl drv, ch, cs, serv lts, hd light pkg, 800-65-32 1-09 thru shop, serviced, new fount augr, sprocket CG elev, chopper knives, UD dischg btr \$8500.00; 2004 JD 9660 STS ser#H09660S706020, s-1192hrs e-1913hrs, 4x4, dlx hdr cont, tchset conc, rb conc, hd fnl drv, tank, ch, cs, 30.5x32 7x10 thru shop, 11 thousand serviced, new fount augr, hnsng, spkts, chpt knives, vert UL auger, horiz unld auger; 2002 JD 9650 STS ser#H09650S696273, s-

1600, 4x4, reg cap lift cyl, dlx hdr pkg, ch, cs, reg unld auger, 18.4 x 42 duals; 2001 JD 9650 STS ser#H09650S692237, s-2500, 4X4, reg lift cylls, dlx hdr pkg, sng. Pt conn ch, cs, service lights, 20.8x42 duals; 1991 JD 9500 ser#H09500X 641181, s-1925 e-2678, 4x4, LL 30.5x32. DAM: 2007 CAT Lexion 570R ser#830ZXZ01099, s-331hrs, 4x4, CH, CS, 900-60-32; 2005 CIH CIH 2388 JJ00276493 s-887 e-1214, 4x4, field tracker, specialty rotor, long auger, yield & loss mon, tank ext, ch, 900/65/32 cleat.

CORNHEADS & PLATFORMS: 2008 JD 612C, ser#H0612CX 726028; CAT F530 head ser# 43801528; CAT 830 head ser# 2X281899; 2003 CIH 1020 25ft head (sn JJCO331411); 1979 IHC 8 row cornhead.

GRAIN CARTS: Brent 876 ser# B19720107, 850bu., 30.5x32, Tarp, PTO; Parker ser#P11202, 510 bu, corner auger, 23.1x26 diamond treads, tarp lights, 1000 pto; 1996 A&L F500 18.4x26 Hyd drive, red, no tarp; Bradford ser# B11528, 450 bu, center-side auger, 23.1x26 diamond treads, tarp, lights, 1000 pto.

HAY EQUIPMENT: 2008 JD 568 Baler, ser#E00568X345963, 1700 bales, 540 pto, mega wide, hyd pick-up, Always shedded never wet; 2007 JD 568 Baler, ser#E00568X335930, 8346 bales, 1000 pto, mega wide, hyd pickup, wrap; 2004 JD 946 ser#E00946T300116, 2 point hitch, impeller, Hyd tilt; 2010 H & S ser#802031, Ran 1 season, less than 200 acres. Like new; 2010 H & S 15wheel Y rake, 1 season; JD 285 Disc Mower ser#E00285X312279, Mower has original blades still on it. Mowed less than 500 ac; JD 285 Disc Mower ser#E00285X312311.

ROTARY CUTTERS: Bush Hog 10301, ser#101813.

PLANTERS & DRILLS: 2011 Kinze 3660 ser#13663, 1400 ac, 1631, seed firmers, Hyd Vacc; 2006 Kinze 3800 ser#755701, 6000 ac, 24 row 30"; 1997 CIH DRILL with markers, ser#80706 30" 15" spcg.

TILLAGE: DMI Tiger Mate 2 ser#820506, 30", 7" sweeps on 6" spacing, 12' mainframe walk lands on wings, 3 bar harrow, w/DMI Crumbler behind; Kruse RF&L ser#10024, 32' S tine, 10" sweeps, 5 bar spike harrow; JD 915 Ripper ser#3301, 7' shank, 5x7 beam; Blue Jet sub tiller II ser#11674, 5 shank min til, 500 acres; CIH 4800 field cultivator, ser#JAG0056416, 24', Sweeps fairly new, 5 bar spike harrow.

LOADER: JD 843 loader; Kelly backhoe, New hyd pump, cylinders need rebuilt.

4 WHLR: 2005 Honda TRX 400 EX. **LAWN TRACTORS:** 2001 Sabre ser#GX2046B121367 20 HP, 46"; 1995 JD LX188 ser#MOL188X117 385 17 hp 48"; 1999 JD LX 277 ser#MOL277F020264; 1999 JD LX 277 AWS ser#MOL277D060310 48" 200HRS; 2010 Craftsman ser#1 COSOH60152 26hp, 50" 92hrs; 2003 JD GT 245 ser#MOG245B 073472 54" 640 HRS; 1997 JD 345 ser#M00345A042448 18hp LQ; 1994 JD 425 ser#M00425A024869 859hrs 54"; 1997 JD 425 AWS ser#M00425B052326; JD 455 AWS 1136 HRS 60"; 2007 JD X340 ser#M0X340A047949 123 HR deck and front blade with chains; 2007 JD Z225 ser#M0Z225A024521 236 hrs; 2003 JD 687 ser#TCF687X020270 367 HRS 60"; 2008 JD Z840 ser#TC0840AU010433 110 hrs, 60"; 2008 JD Z850 ser#TC850AV010179 72" 182hrs.

PUSH MOWERS: MTD Honda ser#1A224K20382; JD 14SB ser#GX14SBF419683; JD JX 75 ser#GXJX75X114305.

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JOHN DEERE



Saddle Trees

There's nothing more confusing than trying to figure out what type of saddle tree you want to use when considering buying a saddle. We western types want something that's comfortable to ride in all day but also has the guts to rope and cut cattle with. After all, that's what we do. We can't have different saddles to do each of those different jobs.

Let's look at a few basic things to look out for when choosing a saddle. The most important thing about a saddle is the comfort to the horse. That's where the importance of the proper saddle tree comes into play. The saddle tree is what the saddle is built on. You could say it's the foundation of the saddle.

Saddle trees are traditionally made out of wood. That may be why they're called trees. There are also synthetic trees. They don't seem to work as well

as wood because there isn't much flex in the synthetic trees and some of the makers say they don't hold the screws and nails as well as wood trees.

There are several different trees that work well for our type of work. Some of the more popular types for working saddles are the Wade, the Bowman and the Association Tree. There are variations for these types of trees that can make a better fit for the horse and the rider.

The difference between saddle trees is the type of fork the tree uses. The fork is the part of the tree that holds the front of the bars together and is the part that the horn is mounted on. The fork is commonly called the swells. There are different types of forks — the slick fork, swell fork and undercut swell fork.

The slick fork is also known as the A-fork saddle. The fork is 8 to 10

inches wide and slopes straight up to the outside of the horn. The slick fork is a working saddle and many ropers prefer this style. It is used mainly by buckaroos in California and Nevada.

The Bowman tree is a swell fork saddle and makes a good all-around working saddle. It is the most popular saddle tree for the western saddle. It can either be a full swell or undercut swell. The undercut is shaped to hold a rider in the seat on colts, bucking horses or on rough trails. The undercut swells allow the rider's thighs to grip up under the swells to better handle colts or tough trails.

The bars are the two parallel bars that sit on the horses back. They are probably the most important part of the tree since their size and style determines the fit of the saddle to the horse's back and

consequently the horse's comfort.

The bars are connected in the back by the cantle. The cantle also acts as a back rest for the rider and secures him in the seat. The cantle can prevent the rider from sliding off the back of the saddle. There are many styles of cantles and you can choose the style that is best suited for your type of work.

The Association tree earned its name because it was designed to be the standard tree for the Rodeo Association. Several rodeo committees got together in the early 1900s and decided to standardize the saddles competitors could ride. They decided on a saddle tree with set specifications. Hence the name Association Tree.

Probably the most confusing part about buying a saddle is determining what type of bars you

should use. First, you should know something about the gullet of a tree. The gullet is the width of the distance between the top of the bars. The confirmation of the horse determines the type of bars.

Regular Quarter Horse bars = 5 ¾"

Semi-Quarter Horse bars = 6"

Full-Quarter Horse bars = 6 ¼ to 6 1/2 "

Arabian bars = 6 1/4"-6 3/4" They have a flatter pitch than Quarter Horse bars.

You can measure across your horses' withers and get a good idea of what type bars you need. For example, if you have a big stout horse, you'll probably want full Quarter Horse bars because they

are wider and will most likely fit your horse better. If you have a smaller horse, perhaps the regular quarter horse bars would be a better fit.

If you're not sure what type of bars or saddle tree you need, then it's best to consult with a good saddle maker to make sure you get the proper tree and the correct bars for your horse. Your comfort is pretty important too. So choose a saddle that makes both you and your mount more comfortable. Consider your saddle as your office. You may be sitting in it all day and its got to fit just right.

Contact Ralph Galeano at horseman@horsemanspress.com or www.horsemanspress.com.

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 1989 Chevrolet 1/2 Ton PU, 350 & Automatic Trans.
 1973 GMC Model 7000, 427, 4x2 Trans., 14' Steel Flat Bed, Brden 3/4" Cable Winch with 13' adjustable Gin Pole, 22.5 Rubber
 1957 Chevrolet 10200, 409, 4x2 Trans., 11' Wood Bed, GW Winch/20' Adjustable Winch, 20.0 Rubber
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Kansas Junior Meat Goat Organization looking to expand

The Kansas Junior Meat Goat Organization (KJMGO) is looking to expand its membership; enrollment for the 2012 year has started. Formed last year to promote the growing meat goat project in Kansas, KJMGO intends to increase the number of youth meat goat shows and learning opportunities in the state while teaching project members valuable life lessons. A sweepstakes system has been setup for club members to receive end-of-year awards for their show participation and leadership activities. This past year, KJMGO held a well-attended May and June show, supported other spring shows, participated in several fundraisers, and will sponsor a year-end-awards banquet. This year's awards banquet was held November 6 in Abilene. There were five award categories: KJMGO sanctioned show winners, KJMGO 2011 Overall Extraordinary Jackpot Showman, Honorable Mention, Goatless Goat, Overall Diversified KJMGO and 2011 Outstanding KJMGO Member. Prizes awarded were show towels, neck leads, candy, ornament plaques, and

cash. KJMGO members voted on what they wanted the bigger awards to be. Winners were: Cassadie Copeland, Blake Foraker, Kaci Foraker, Raine Garten, Kris Gloodt, Kalyn Gloodt, Mackenzie Riffel, Spencer Riffel, Allyson Rudd, Rebekah Thomas, Rogan Tokach, Janessa McDaniel, Ian McDaniel, Abby Lillard. Top winners were: KJMGO Year Overall Extraordinary KJMGO Jackpot Showman Raine Garten (First), Natalie Harris (Second); 2011 Goatless Goat Winner Abby Lillard; 2011 Overall Outstanding KJMGO Member JaelAnn Hoover (First) Sam Davis (Second). The Overall Outstanding KJMGO Member can only be obtained once per age division and interviews are held for the top scoring individuals.

Those interested in becoming members, learning more about KJMGO activities, or sponsoring the organization may visit the KJMGO website at www.kjmgo.webs.com contact Jamie Garten at 785-263-0391 or Heather Hoover 785-238-805 or hooverfarms3@yahoo.com.



2011 Kansas Junior Meat Goat Organization member winners included, back row from left: Blake Foraker, JaelAnn Hoover, Natalie Harris, Rebekah Thomas, Sam Davis Front row: Abby Lillard, Raine Garten.

Poultry and livestock add money, jobs to national economy

The soybean checkoff talks a lot about U.S. soybean farmers' No. 1 customers – poultry and livestock farmers. But these sectors impact more than just a soybean farmer's profit potential. According to a recent soybean-check-off-funded study, poultry and livestock supported 1.8 million U.S. jobs and added \$19 billion in tax revenue annually to the U.S. economy.

"It's important that we maintain and expand animal agriculture in the United States," says Laura Foell, a soybean farmer from Schaller, Iowa, and a farmer-leader for the United Soybean Board (USB). "It helps grow our U.S. soybean industry but is also a way we can keep jobs here and know we are producing safe and reliable food."

That economic impact appears to be more than just a fad. In fact, the poultry and livestock sectors increased household incomes by more than \$4 billion during the last decade alone. Nearly 70 percent of that growth occurred west of the Mississippi River or right on its borders, but trends show growth occurring more evenly throughout the country.

"This study shows the importance of animal agriculture not only to soybean farmers, but also to our local, state and national economies," adds Foell. "And animal agriculture helps local businesses by purchasing goods in local stores and creating local jobs."

Iowa and California won big for growth in earn-

ings, jobs and tax revenue from animal agriculture, according to the study. Iowa added more than 19,000 jobs since 2000, while California added more than 17,000 in the same time period. These states added \$176.2 million and \$185.5 million in tax revenue respectively, the study found.

Poultry and livestock consume 98 percent of domestic soybean meal each year and help increase the value of U.S. soybeans. The checkoff study showed most recently that consumption equaled 30 million tons of soybean meal, or the meal from approximately 1.2 billion bushels of soybeans annually. To read the full study on the economic impact of animal agriculture, visit tinyurl.com/checkoffeconomics.

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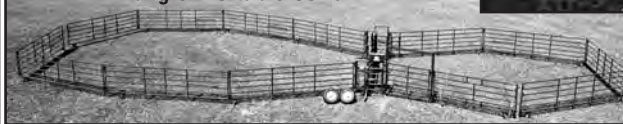


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Washington County FFA agronomy team named reserve national champion

The Washington County FFA agronomy team, consisting of Brooke Stamm, Bonnie Bailey, Samantha L'Ecuyer, Claire Bokelman and Shelby Hynek, finished as the reserve national champion team at the National Agronomy Career Development Event. This is the fifth year that the Washington County FFA Chapter has qualified to compete in this national competition, and each year has placed either first, second or third as a team. (2005 – 3rd, 2008 – 1st, 2009 – 1st, 2010 – 2nd, 2011 – 2nd)

Individually, the three high school juniors led the way with Samantha L'Ecuyer placing as the second high individual overall. Claire Bokelman finished 5th, Shelby Hynek 6th, each receiving a \$1000 scholarship for their achievements. Brooke Stamm landed in the 12th place spot in the Gold Division (Top ¼) in the field of over 120 competitors in the national competition this year. Bonnie Bailey served as the team's assistant coach and alternate.

The National FFA Agronomy CDE is a competitive activity that allows students to apply



Members of the Washington County reserve national champion agronomy team at the National FFA Convention are, from left: Mr. John Kern, advisor, Bonnie Bailey, Brooke Stamm, Samantha L'Ecuyer, Shelby Hynek, Claire Bokelman.

classroom knowledge to real-life situations. Participants' knowledge of agronomic sciences was tested through several levels of competition including developing solutions for problematic diagnosis of scenarios; identification of plants, weeds, seeds, insects, machinery, soils and crops; as well as a team management presentation.

Since they have now competed at the National contest, the students are ineligible to compete in the FFA Agronomy career development event at the high school level. The National FFA Agronomy CDE is sponsored by Bayer CropScience as a special

project of the National FFA Foundation. It is one of 24 different national events that uses the thrill of competition to connect classroom learning and careers.

Samantha L'Ecuyer is the daughter of Joe and Jona L'Ecuyer of Morrowville, Claire Bokelman is the daughter of Scott and Debbie Bokelman of Washington, Shelby Hynek is the daughter of Todd and Teresa Hynek of Morrowville, Brooke Stamm is the daughter of Clint and Kelly Stamm, Washington and Bonnie Bailey is the daughter of Terry and Ruth Bailey of Washington.



Grand champion Salers bull at the American Royal Salers Livestock Show went to GGT P Blk Enclave 279X, earlier named junior champion bull, a February 6, 2010, bull, owned by GG&T Cattle Co, Quinter, and Larry & Linda Wright, Isabella, Okla., and sired by GGT P Blk Predator 223N.

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Veterans Day

Last November 11, I was in Red Deer, Alberta during Remembrance Day. It coincided with Veterans Day in the U.S., Remembrance Day in Australia and also in England. This day is singled out to honor all the men and women who have served in the armed forces of these countries.

Other countries also honor their soldiers, but this Anglican relationship between Mother England and we three colonies is special. We have much in common. To wit, we speak English as the national language and have a compatible culture. In the 20th century we joined against a common enemy, AND we all liked the Beatles and James Bond!

I think of us in a familial way. We are siblings begat by Mother England. Canada remains the closest to Mother. The first time I gave a speech in Canada, I was in the Hotel Saskatchewan. The Queen's picture was prominently displayed over my left shoulder and Prince Phillip's over my right. I stood a little straighter! The Canadians' affection and respect for royalty is apparent.

The United States represents the child who ran away and became successful. He came back and they took him in, but it has always been a more formal relationship. Instead of pic-

tures of the Queen, we are more likely to have posters of Princess Di next to Michael Jackson. I mean, we still send Christmas cards but no whoopee cushions or cow-pie penholders are exchanged.

Australia is the resentful but dependent child. They had parental problems in their youth. Mother did not spare the rod. Australia is like the kid who had no interest in college, politics or business. They like the beach. But they are loyal and steadfast to the British tradition, in sports, tea parties, and eating organ meats. They are a lot more fun at the reunion than the dogmatic Americans or the pompous Brits.

We three countries share a common bond. We bicker and point fingers at each other. We each think we know best when it comes to manners, sports and how to enjoy life. But like most families that fight at home amongst ourselves, we are quick to get our back up

when an outsider dares to pick on one of our own! The picker soon finds we can be a formidable foe. This protective response extends to Mother England, as well, particularly since she is showing signs of old age. We have other similar traits between us; a frontier in the west, oceans on both sides, a constitutional tolerance for free speech, protest and the welcoming of legal immigrants.

On Veterans Day, Canada, England, Australia and the U.S. all recognize that in the 20th century, war turned the world on its head. We held hands and surrounded Mother England and were the major force that held the enemies at bay.

Today our combined influence, power, and place in the world is in large part, the result of millions of individuals who served in the military; the Veterans. They are descendants of Great Britain, strengthened by the infusion of the Quebecois, Sikhs, Ukrainians, Latinos, Irish, African, Jewish, Asian, Native... a rainbow of patriots who have assimilated, and help us guard our shores. We watch each other's backs, help each other up, and believe in the unbelievable... that each man has a right to be free.

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