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## Donald touts value of FTAs, exports at KLA convention

By Donna Sullivan, Editor

"What I've learned about this industry and this country is that while it's not great for everybody all of the time, it is great for all of us over time," National Cattlemen's Beef Association president Bill Donald told attendees of the Kansas Livestock Association annual convention in early December.

"We are in the place in the industry where, if you don't pay attention to detail, you could get your head cut off and handed to you in a hurry or you could actually be successful beyond your wildest dreams. And isn't that the greatest thing about this country? We still have that ability to risk everything we have for a \$30 margin," he quipped. "Supply is down, demand is up – what more could you ask for, no matter what your product is?"

The third generation Melville, Montana rancher served as president of the Montana Stockgrowers Association and was on the

executive committee of R-CALF. He was a founding member and first president of the Crazy Mountain Stockgrower's Association. He and his family own and operate Cayuse Livestock Company, a cow/calf/yearling operation in the foothills of the Crazy Mountains in south central Montana.

A victory for those in the livestock industry that Donald considers a highlight of his tenure as NCBA president was the passing of the free trade agreements with South Korea, Panama and Colombia. "They have the potential to reduce the tariffs down to zero and actually put us on a level playing field with those three countries," he stated. He indicated that South Korea alone, over the course of the fifteen-year tariff reduction could represent up to a billion dollars in increased sales. "I am the guy that is lucky enough to be NCBA president that can say, 'look what I did,'" he said. "I think



NCBA president Bill Donald spoke of the value of the three trade agreements that were passed as well as the importance of exports to the livestock industry as he addressed the KLA convention on December 2.

off all the guys before me, my predecessors and all the work they put in to get that to happen and I was lucky enough to be there when President Lee of South Korea came into the White House and made the case as to why this was a benefit to both countries."

Donald said that a direct result of that was Japan deciding to be part of the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations. If they were to join the partnership, they would go to full OIE standards, which would allow American beef older than 20 months of age to be imported into that country. "Just our beef from 20-30 months represents \$1 billion in increased sales," Donald said. "And it isn't because we are going to send them more of the same product. It's because there are a lot of products that we can't send them now because we can't identify a lot of the variety meats as being out of those cattle because of the restrictions."

To illustrate the benefits of exports to the market, he described what happened in Argentina when their president banned exports in an effort to ensure his people would have ample cheap beef. At the time their per capita beef consumption was 145 pounds and they exported 15% of their product. When he banned exports, people elected to instead raise corn or double crop wheat and soybeans on their fertile ground. "Well, he took the profit out of cattle, so they just started killing them," Donald said. The cow herd shrunk 30% in five years, per capita consumption dropped to 125 pounds and the price went up. "So the message there was that if you let the market rein and leave the profit in there, they could have enjoyed that 145 pounds consumption and the product would have remained cheap. But when you take the profit out of it, people quit doing it."

## Harvey, Marion County ranchers elected to lead KLA

Members of the Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) elected Sedgwick rancher, feeder and farmer Frank Harper as president during the group's annual meeting December 2 in Wichita. The new president elect of the 5,500-member organization is Mark Harms, a seedstock cattle producer from Lincolnville. As volunteer leaders, Harper and Harms will represent KLA members during 2012.

Harper has backgrounding facilities and grazes cattle on crop residue in Harvey and Sedgwick counties. He and his wife, Mary, lease the majority of their grass from her family in Butler County.



Frank Harper, left, was elected to serve as president of KLA at their annual convention in early December. Mark Harms was voted in as the new president elect of the organization.

They own both commercial and registered cow herds. Calves from the commercial herd are backgrounded and retained through the feeding phase. Some are sold through U.S. Premium Beef (USPB), a vertically integrated beef marketing company owned by ranchers and feeders. Harper's registered cows serve as a cooperator herd for Harms Plainview Ranch, owned by Harms. The Harpers also partner with his parents on a dryland and irrigated farming operation.

Harper is very involved in beef industry leadership. He currently serves on the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Policy Division Board of Directors and on the NCBA Property Rights and Environmental Management Committee.

Harper is a past member of the industry's Joint Advertising Committee. Harper has served as vice chairman of the KLA Water Committee and on the KLA Policy & Resolutions Committee. He serves on the KLA Executive Committee and is a past KLA Harvey County director.

He is a past member of the Groundwater Management District #2 Board of Directors, having served several terms as vice president. He has served in various leadership capacities with Extension board and with the Sedgwick United Methodist Church.

Harper graduated from Kansas State University with an agronomy degree in 1992. He is a 1988 graduate from Sedgwick High School.

The Harpers have two

daughters, Annie and Cora. They attend school in the Sedgwick school district.

Harms and his wife, Kim, own and operate Harms Plainview Ranch. They raise registered Angus, Red Angus and Charolais cattle. The ranch utilizes leased grass in Marion and surrounding counties. Dryland farm acreage is used primarily for feed production. Harms Plainview Ranch has grown to involve four cooperator herds in Kansas to help supply the business with breeding stock.

The Nebraska native's leadership resume is lengthy. Harms currently serves on the NCBA Federation Board of Directors and is a member of the industry's Joint Advertising Committee. He has represented Marion County on the KLA Board of Directors, served as chairman of both the KLA Purebred and Stockgrowers Councils, chaired the KLA Policy & Resolutions Committee for three terms and has spent several years on the KLA Executive Committee.

Harms is a founding member of USPB. He was chairman of the USPB Board of Directors Nominating Committee for the first six years the company was in business. Harms Plainview Ranch is a qualified seedstock supplier for USPB.

Locally, Harms is a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, has served on the board of education and cur-

rently is vice chairman of the congregation. He is a past director of Marion County Farm Bureau.

He graduated with honors from K-State in 1990. His degree is in animal sci-

ences and industry.

The Harms have three children. Daughter Taylor is a senior in high school. Sons Cade and Payton are in seventh and sixth grade, respectively.

### National Beef Packing Co., LLC to sell ownership interest to Leucadia National Corp.

U.S. Premium Beef, LLC (USPB) and National Beef Packing Company, LLC (National Beef) have announced that the owners of National Beef have entered into a Membership Interest Purchase Agreement with Leucadia National Corporation (Leucadia) under which Leucadia will acquire approximately 79% of the outstanding ownership interests in National Beef. The operations and management structure of National Beef will remain unchanged.

"This transaction will enable us to address the liquidity desires of USPB's diverse producer ownership base while maintaining our highly successful cattle supply system and a sizable investment in beef processing," Steve Hunt, CEO of USPB, said in making the announcement. "Leucadia is a diversified holding company engaged in a variety of businesses; its broad and deep experience will enhance our partnership. Our goals for the future of National Beef are aligned and we look forward to a long and successful partnership."

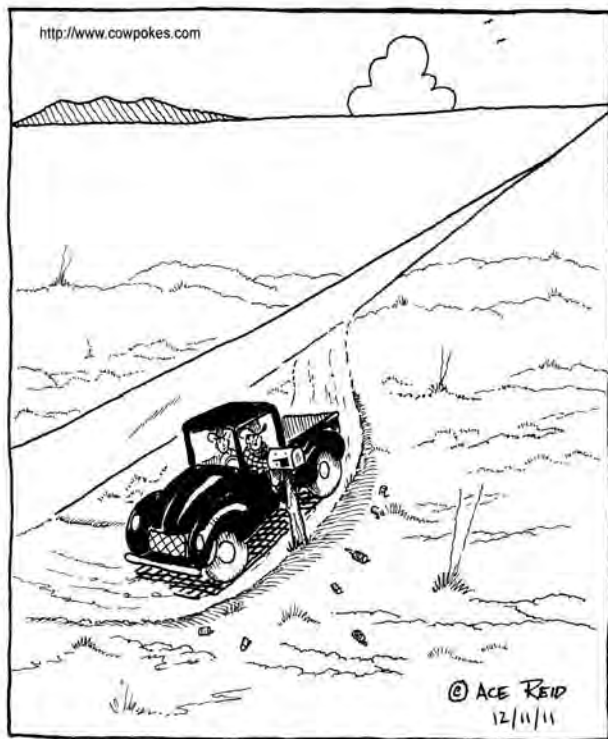
Tim M. Klein, president and CEO of National Beef, will continue in that role upon completion of the transaction. "I look forward to Leucadia joining our ownership group and bringing its unique perspective to our industry. The addition of Leucadia will widen the scope of opportunities available to us and will further strengthen our ability to expand our business and solidify our position as the premier global beef processor."

The transaction is subject to certain conditions and will require customary regulatory approvals. It is expected to close by the end of calendar year 2011.



**COWPOKES®**

By Ace Reid



"It's heck to drive 25 miles to the mail box to git a paper with nothin' but bad news!"

# Reflections

from  
Young Farmers & Ranchers

By Lori Pultz Haresnape

My friend Michelle and I have been sharing our "cow-girl" successes and woes with each other the past couple of years. We're both stay-at-home moms who help our husbands, and between that and community activities, rarely stay home. Our kids are all mobile and can both speak and understand English now, so we have had more opportunity to get out in the cow herds the past couple of calving seasons. We update each other on our experiences via Facebook. For instance, one day I tagged five calves. Even my husband was surprised. It should have been seven. I couldn't figure out which cow one calf be-

longed to, and the other belonged to cow #423, the meanest, toughest ole cow (with the greatest maternal instincts) in the Midwest. Our hired man tried to help me, but he even lost nerve. And he's tough! Theron got her. He's been tagging her calves since 2006.

Back to Michelle's and my friendship. We always wrap up our comments on a positive note regardless of how things turned out, with a spoof on Bill Engvall's "I'm a Cowboy" routine: "Cause - I - AM - A - COW - GIIIRRL!!!" I had quite a story for her this past April.

Theron and I went over to a neighbor's to help him work his cows and calves before taking them to summer pasture. My job was to round up 4 cows, sort them into a first pen, move them to the next, and Theron took them from there. I did my job very well. Eldon's cows are really nice and easy to work with. I kept up my end of the deal until the end. I got the last three into the first pen, opened the second, they walked in, I started closing the gate, and BAM! The gate hit me. It's amazing the stuff that goes through your head. You don't usually feel pain right away, so it was hard to determine where exactly I was hit. I had heard what sounded like my sunglasses breaking, so the first thing I did was look for them. They were on top of my head, unharmed. I started frantically grabbing all over my face, trying to determine if everything was

still in the place it should be and discovered I was bloody. I got the gate shut and ducked down to hide from Eldon. I didn't know what I looked like, and I didn't want him to feel badly. After coming to the conclusion that my nose had not been pushed up into my brain and that I'd probably survive, I tried to get Theron's attention. When he turned and saw me, his mouth dropped open and he turned white. Maybe my nose had really made it up to my brain...

I told him I was okay, just finish the cows. I made my way over panels to get closer to the veterinarian, thinking he would have a towel I could use to clean myself up and perhaps maybe even assess the damage for me. By the time I made it to him, my nose was starting to hurt, and my head was pounding. I was okay. He said my nose was

## Prairie Ponderings

By Donna Sullivan

Last week my oldest son informed us that after Sunday dinner, all of our help was needed for a good old-fashioned cattle drive. In true Tom Sawyer fashion, he made it sound like the most entertaining thing any of us would have the opportunity to participate in for years to come, maybe even the rest of our lives. So when we finished eating, everyone bundled up, loaded into vehicles and headed for his place. Even his city-girl sister and her husband responded to the call of duty. The only ones missing were my younger son's wife and son, the consensus being that a one-year-old probably wouldn't be a whole lot of help anyway.

When we climbed into the back of the truck for a short ride to the first pasture, I decided it was time to enlighten my youngest daughter on one of the simple truths of sibling-hood. "You know," I confessed. "All of us oldest siblings live our whole lives believing that the only reason our parents even had the rest of their kids was to make sure we had plenty of help for all of our little projects. And, well... it's not something we ever outgrow."

She looked at me with eyes squinted against the wind, her cheeks chapped a rosy red. "You really think I hadn't already figured that out?" she asked.

I'm happy to report that the cattle drive went off without a hitch. My son-in-law had watched enough old westerns to feel the need to say, "Come on, boys, we're burning daylight!" and decided when it was over that he had earned his cowboy hat.

The cattle were well enough behaved that my older daughter and I didn't have to execute the death-defying leap out of the back of the moving pickup that we were told we might need to make when they got to the neighbor's cut milo field, and soon all of the mama cows and their babies were happily grazing on their own stalks. My younger son credits his stellar job of running baling twine along the milo field, which rendered unnecessary the aforementioned death-defying leap and therefore saved my life.

We loaded back into our vehicles and headed home. The cattle got moved, no one got hurt, we had a few laughs and made a good memory.

In our family that, my friends, is as good as it gets.



EARL SAYS HE'S SURE LUCKY TO HAVE HIS OWN HOME, SIT IN HIS OWN CHAIR, RELAX, AND WATCH HIS WIFE'S FAVORITE PROGRAMS.

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## The Learning Post

By Gordon Morrison  
Concordia Rancher and  
Former Agriculture Educator

### Who Is In Control?

Like many others, I find myself wondering what is ahead for us as individuals and as a nation. Do we have any control of the direction our country seems to be headed?

An important factor that often determines behaviors and the outcome in many situations is control. This is a matter of concern whether it involves only two persons, a family of people, or even an entire country. Many people feel the desire and need to be in control and are willing to pay the price in order to have that power. I wonder if many divorces occur over the struggle of who is in control.

National elections are held to determine which political party will be in control for the next four years. Almost as soon as the election is over and they take office, politicians again begin to campaign to determine who will be in control four years later. Control seems to be a forever struggle whether in government, wars, businesses or families. These struggles will surely affect each of us in our way of life.

Some politicians campaign on the grounds that we need a change. Most people will agree that we need it, but the promised change is not explained nor understood very well and may not be for the better. One change often begets another one. Then questions of concern arise: "Will the changes mean a more stringent control over me and my freedoms? How soon they will come about? Will they be introduced under the auspices of the constitution or will our constitution be ignored and skirted around?"

Last week May and I watched a re-run of the movie *Dr. Zhivago* which we had seen several years ago. It showed the struggles of the discontented and the underprivileged peasants to bring about change in the Russian government. When living under the strict control of the czars became unbearable, these common folk were willing to risk their lives in confronting and attempting to overcome the powerful regimes.

Many a bloody battle was fought to see who would have control over the people. Would it be a ruthless dictator like Lenin or Stalin, who murdered and imprisoned millions of the country's citizens, or would it be the more humane revolutionaries? What was so interesting in the story is that whenever those in revolt gained control, in a matter of time, they too abused their power. Being in control seems to affect some to desire even greater power and then abusing it, even to become what they had earlier abhorred.

In an attempt to make conditions better and to lessen the gap between the "haves" and the "have-nots," they developed a form of government known as communism. It is described as sharing the wealth of a country among its citizens to the point where all the people are equal. The standard of living is supposedly the same for all the country's citizens. No one has too much nor does anyone have too little. No one is overworked nor is anyone unemployed. It may sound good, but in reality it does not work.

Incentives to work hard to gain superior production are lost. Why work hard to gain wealth when it will be taken away and given to others who work less? If one gets paid the same whether filling ten sacks of potatoes or a hundred sacks, why put forth the effort? Consequently, the productivity of the nation grinds down to a bare minimum and the citizens are poverty-stricken except for the few who are in control of the administration. It becomes a "good old boys" club of a few, and they indulge in a dog-eat-dog foray. It has proven to be a very poor form of government that breeds mostly misery and a low standard of living.

Are we being manipulated toward socialism, which is a big step toward communism, where the government owns and controls it all? When citizens ask for more government control and handouts and vote accordingly, it is a very bad sign. It can eventually lead to revolt and bloodshed.

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still straight (and not in my brain), but I'd probably have a couple of black eyes in the morning. The blood was coming from a cut across the top of my nose where the gate had hit me square-on. It was also coming from inside, thus making my face a bit of a mess. I got cleaned up and put my sunglasses on to hide the top of my nose. We told Eldon so he wouldn't hear it through the grapevine, but I hid from his wife, hoping she wouldn't see me as I headed for the pickup.

First thing I did? After my mother-in-law doctored me up, I Facebook'd

Michelle. I had a story to tell! Then I stayed on the couch with ice on my face for two days. The whole left side of my body was hit pretty hard too, so I couldn't get up anyway.

I'm very thankful a bunged-up nose was my worst injury. I still have a bump where I was hit. And sometimes it hurts when I push my glasses up. I'm also thankful for my battle scars. They serve as constant reminders to not let myself relax too much while working around cattle.

They are also a reminder of one other thing: I - AM - A - COW - GIRL!

## Cargill supports Farm Safety 4 Just Kids

Cargill recently made a generous contribution to Farm Safety 4 Just Kids [FS4JK]. Cargill is an international producer and marketer of food, agricultural, financial, and industrial products and services. Founded in 1865, the privately held company employs 138,000 people in 67 countries.

"Cargill's generous donation supporting Farm Safety 4 Just Kids demonstrates their dedication to helping their customers succeed and ensures our organization will be able to continue keeping our rural youth safe," said Dave Schweitz, executive

director of Farm Safety 4 Just Kids.

Farm Safety 4 Just Kids was created in 1987 by Marilyn Adams after the death of her 11-year-old son. The organization raises awareness about the health and safety hazards that are an inherent part of the rural environment in which children live, work, and play. Nine outreach coordinators and more than 120 chapters in the United States

and Canada conduct safety and health programs within their communities.

Thanks to the support of agribusiness sponsors like Cargill, Farm Safety 4 Just Kids is able to provide their volunteers with up to date and pertinent safety education and demonstration resources.

For more information visit [www.fs4jk.org](http://www.fs4jk.org).



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## Kathy Hogue, Topeka/Alma Wins Holiday Contest

## FRENCH BEEF

- 2 cups carrots**  
**2 pounds sirloin steak**  
**Salt & pepper**  
**1 large sweet onion**  
**1 cup mayonnaise**  
**3 cups shredded mozzarella**

**Cover a 12-by-18-inch jelly roll pan with thinly sliced carrots. Top with a layer of thinly sliced steak (easier to slice if slightly frozen). Lightly salt and pepper. Place a layer of thinly sliced onion over the steak. Spread a layer of mayonnaise over the onions. Cover the top with a layer of mozzarella. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 to 60 minutes.**

1 large (14-inch or 20-inch)  
cooking bag  
2 tablespoons flour  
1/2 cup water  
1/2 teaspoon basil leaves  
1/2 teaspoon thyme leaves  
1/2 teaspoon Season All salt  
(seasoning salt)

- 1 medium onion**  
**3 medium potatoes**  
**4 medium carrots**  
**1/4 teaspoon paprika**  
**1 cup vegetables, green**  
**beans or mixed vegetables**  
**8 chicken pieces**  
**Pepper to taste**

Shake flour in the cooking bag. Place bag in a 9-by-

**13-inch baking pan. Add water, basil, thyme and seasoning salt to bag. Squeeze bag to blend. Cut onion and potatoes into wedges. Slice carrots into cubes. Add vegetables. Arrange in an even layer. Sprinkle chicken with the paprika and pepper. Place the chicken in a bag. Close bag with nylon tie. Make (6) 1/2-inch slits in top of bag. Bake at 375 degrees for 50 to 55 minutes or until chicken is tender.**

**Carol Smith, Ozawkie: “I have taken this French Toast to our weekly Wednesday**

**morning coffee. It's one everyone enjoys."**

## PRALINE-PECAN FRENCH TOAST

- 16-ounce French bread loaf**  
**1 cup firmly packed light**  
**brown sugar**  
**1/3 cup butter, melted**  
**2 tablespoons maple syrup**  
**3/4 cup chopped pecans**  
**4 large eggs, lightly beaten**  
**1 cup 2% reduced-fat milk**  
**2 tablespoons granulated**  
**sugar**

- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon**  
**1 teaspoon vanilla extract**

**Cut 10 (1-inch-thick)** slices of bread. Reserve remaining bread for another use. Stir together brown sugar and next 2 ingredients; pour into a lightly greased 9-by-13-inch baking dish. Sprinkle with chopped pecans. Whisk together eggs and next 4 ingredients. Arrange bread slices over pecans; pour egg mixture over bread. Cover and chill 8

**hours. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Bake bread 35 to 37 minutes or until golden brown. Serve immediately. Makes 8 to 10 servings.**

**Linda Kenka Dorrance:**

## OATMEAL

- CHOCOLATE CHIP CAKE**  
**1 cup oatmeal**  
**1 3/4 cups boiling water**  
**1 cup sugar**  
**1 cup brown sugar**

**1/2 cup margarine**  
**2 eggs**

- 1 3/4 cups flour  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 tablespoon cocoa  
12 ounces chocolate ch

**Pour boiling water over oatmeal. Let stand for 10 minutes. Add sugar, brown sugar and margarine then add eggs. Mix flour, baking soda, salt and cocoa; add to other mixture. Stir in half of the chocolate chips. Pour into a 9-by-13-inch pan. Sprinkle other half of chocolate chips on top. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes.**

**Loretta Shepard, Helena, Okla.:**

## CRANBERRY SALAD

- 2 cups sugar  
1 orange  
1 apple  
1 package cranberries  
1 cup nuts, chopped  
2 packages gelatin (I use 1  
lamon and 1 cranberry)

Grind orange, apple and cranberries. Add sugar and mix well. Mix gelatin with 1 cup boiling water. Cool. Add to cranberry mixture. Add nuts. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

**Brenda Bruch, Strong City:** "Here is a recipe that I serve when we have overnight guests. I have never had a recipe that has been

**more popular. Almost everyone requests the recipe! Enjoy."**

## BAKED OATMEAL

- 2 cups old-fashioned oatmeal**  
**1/2 cup brown sugar or**  
**Splenda**  
**1/3 cup raisins**

- 1/4 cup nuts, chopped (almonds or pecans)  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
1 1/2 cups milk  
1/2 cup applesauce or 1 or 2 apples, chopped

**2 tablespoons butter, melted**  
**1 large egg, beaten**  
**1 teaspoon cinnamon, optional**

**Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Add all ingredients together in an 8-inch square baking pan or dish. Bake 20 minutes. Serve with butter, milk, cinnamon, blueberries, craisins, bananas, strawberries and/or yogurt. Serves 6 to 8. Recipe can be doubled and freezes well.**

**Wayne Conger, Tecumseh:  
PRETZEL**

## PRETZEL PEANUT BALLS

nces white chocol

- 1 1/2 cups pretzel sticks, broken into small pieces**  
**2 cups dry roasted lightly salted peanuts**

**Line baking sheet with parchment or waxed paper. Place chocolate in microwave and melt. Stir until**

**smooth. Stir in pretzel pieces and peanuts. Spoon onto baking sheet spreading mixture out so ingredients are evenly distributed. Allow chocolate to cool for several hour or refrigerate until firm, 45 minutes. Break into pieces.**

**Joanne Breault, Wamego:** “After searching for a good sugar cookie recipe a friend shared this with me. A great recipe to have on hand during the hectic holidays as it does not need to be chilled, is easy to handle and roll out and is a great-tasting sugar cookie.”

## HOLIDAY

## SUGAR COOKIES

- 1 cup butter, softened  
1 1/2 cups sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
3 eggs  
4 1/2 cups flour, sifted  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon soda

Cream together butter and sugar. Add eggs and vanilla. Mix dry ingredients together and add to creamed mixture. Roll out on lightly floured surface. Roll out 1/4-inch or desired thickness. Cut into desired shapes. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 9 to 10 minutes until edges start to brown. Cool. Decorate as desired.

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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@agpress.com



# 2011 Grass & Grain Holiday Recipe Contest

Margaret Trojan, Beaver Crossing, Neb.:

**HOLIDAY SWEET POTATOES**  
3 cups cooked sweet potatoes, mashed  
1/2 cup white sugar  
2 eggs  
1/2 cup melted butter  
1/2 cup milk  
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla  
1 cup brown sugar  
1/4 cup margarine, softened  
1/2 cup flour  
1 cup chopped pecans

Mix together the first six ingredients. Put in slightly greased baking dish. Blend final ingredients and sprinkle on top of sweet potatoes. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 to 40 minutes.

\*\*\*\*  
Sandy Hill, Eskridge:  
**PEPPERMINT SHORTBREAD BITES**

1 cup butter, softened (do not use margarine)  
1/2 cup powdered sugar  
2 cups flour  
1 teaspoon peppermint extract  
3 tablespoons finely crushed hard peppermint candies, about 6  
1 tablespoon granulated sugar  
3 ounces vanilla-flavored candy coating almond bark, melted

In a large bowl beat butter and powdered sugar with electric mixer on medium

speed until fluffy. On low speed, beat in flour and peppermint extract. On a greased cookie sheet, pat dough into 6-inch squares about 3/4 inch thick. Cover and refrigerate 30 minutes. Heat oven to 325 degrees. On cookie sheet cut dough into 8 rows by 8 rows making 64 squares. With knife separate rows by 1/2 inch. Bake 28 to 35 minutes or until set and edges are just starting to turn golden. Meanwhile in small bowl mix crushed candy and granulated sugar. In small resealable food storage plastic bag place melted candy coating. Seal bag, cut tiny hole in corner of bag. Do not remove cookies from cookie sheet. Pipe candy coating over cookies. Before candy coating sets, sprinkle candy mixture over cookies. Place cookies to cooling racks. Cool completely, about 30 minutes. Makes about 64 cookies.

\*\*\*\*  
Karen Saner, Burns:  
**PARTY MIX**

2 cups Cheerios  
6 cups Chex  
1 cup raisins  
1 cup peanuts  
3-4 cups popcorn  
1/2 cup oleo  
1 cup brown sugar  
1/4 cup light syrup  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/4 teaspoon salt

Mix the dry ingredients together and set aside. Boil for 3 minutes the oleo, brown sugar, syrup, cinnamon and salt. Pour the boiled mixture over the dry ingredients and stir. Bake 30 minutes at 250 degrees. Stir at 15 minutes. Break apart and spread out to cool.

\*\*\*\*  
Debbie Rogers, Independence, Mo.:

**TURTLE TRIFLE**  
21-ounce package chewy fudge brownie baked according to package directions

2 cups sugar  
1 1/3 cups light corn syrup  
2/3 cup butter, melted  
4 large eggs  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
2 teaspoons vanilla  
3 cups chopped pecans  
16-ounce container whipped topping  
12-ounce jar caramel ice cream topping  
2 cups whole pecans

Crumble brownies; set aside. In large saucepan combine sugar, corn syrup, melted butter and eggs. Stir in salt, vanilla and chopped pecans. Bring to a boil over medium heat, reduce heat and simmer for 10 minutes,

stirring frequently. Cool completely. In a trifle dish, layer brownies, pecans mixture, whipped topping, caramel and whole pecans as ending layer. Layer two to three times. Chill for 2 hours or more.

\*\*\*\*  
Kellee Rogers, Topeka:  
**DATE BALLS**

1/2 cup butter  
1/4 cup honey  
10-ounce package chopped dates  
1 teaspoon orange zest  
2 1/2 cups crisp rice cereal  
2 cups coconut, divided

In pan combine butter and honey. Cook until butter melts. Add dates and zest, cook for about 5 minutes or until thickened. Remove from heat and stir in cereal and 1 cup coconut. Cool for 30 minutes. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Shape into 1-inch balls and place on sheet. In a shallow dish place 1 cup coconut. Rolls balls to coat. Store covered in refrigerator for up to 2 weeks.

\*\*\*\*  
Mrs. Carol Ricketts, Clay Center: "Sometimes in the winter we have a breakfast for supper on the farm. This

is what we have for the best pancake recipe."

**PANCAKES**  
2 cups flour  
4 teaspoons baking powder  
1 teaspoon salt  
2 tablespoons sugar  
1 egg  
1 1/2 cups milk  
1/3 cup oil

Mix flour, baking powder, salt and sugar in a large bowl; set aside. Beat egg and add milk; add oil and mix. Add to flour mixture and stir just until mixed, leaving batter lumpy. Cook pancakes on heated, greased fry pan until covered with bubbles. Turn pancakes and brown the other side. Makes 12 medium-size pancakes.

\*\*\*\*  
Melissa Byrd, Independence, Mo.:

**SOUTHWEST CHEDDAR PANCAKES**  
1 3/4 cups self-rising flour  
3/4 cup buttermilk  
1/3 cup oil  
3 large eggs, separated

1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese  
2 green onions, chopped  
11-ounce can yellow corn with red & green bell peppers, drained

Place flour in a large bowl, make a well in center. Stir buttermilk, oil and egg yolks; add to flour stirring just until moistened. Beat egg whites at high speed with an electric mixer until stiff peaks form then fold into batter. Add cheese, 2 chopped green onions and corn to batter, stirring just until blended. Batter will be stiff. Pour about 1/3 cup batter for each pancake onto a hot lightly greased griddle or large nonstick skillet, spread each into a 4-inch circle. Cook pancakes 3-4 minutes or until tops are covered with bubbles and edges look dry and cooked, turn and cook other side 2 minutes or until done.

\*\*\*\*

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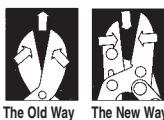
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# 2011 Grass & Grain Holiday Recipe Contest

Joyce Maginness, Fostoria: "This is a very moist cake. Frost with your favorite frosting, or leave unfrosted (our preference)."

## EASY CARROT CAKE

1 yellow cake mix, divided  
2 eggs  
1 cup water  
1/3 vegetable or cooking oil  
1 box instant vanilla pudding (4 serving size)  
2 cups shredded carrots  
1 cup golden raisins  
1/2 cup chopped walnuts  
1/2 cup sweet coconut  
14-ounce can of crushed pineapple  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1 teaspoon nutmeg  
1/2 teaspoon ginger  
1/2 teaspoon allspice

In a bowl mix together carrots, raisins, walnuts and coconut. Add to these ingredients 2 tablespoons of dry cake mix. In a separate bowl, add cake mix, pudding mix, oil, eggs, water, pineapple and spices. When thoroughly mixed add carrot mixture. Pour into 9-by-13-inch pan or two double layer pans or a bundt pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 45-50 minutes.

\*\*\*\*\*

Rose Edwards, Stillwater, Okla.:

## BRIE &

**CRANBERRY TARTLETS**  
(3) 1.9-ounce packages miniature phyllo pastry shells (about 45)

1 cup whole berry cranberry sauce  
1 tablespoon orange zest  
8-ounce wheel of Brie, rind removed

Set oven at 350 degrees. Line a baking sheet with heavy duty aluminum foil. Place shells on prepared baking sheet and bake for 5 minutes. Cool completely on baking sheet. Reduce oven to 300 degrees. In a bowl, combine sauce and zest. Cut Brie into

about 45 pieces. Place 1 Brie piece in each pastry shell, top with about 1 teaspoon cranberry mixture. Bake for 4-6 minutes or until cheese just begins to melt. Serve immediately.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mary Rogers, Topeka:  
**HONEYED NUTS & DRIED FRUITS**

1 pound walnuts  
1 pound pecans  
(2) 6-ounce packages dried tart cherries  
8-oz. pkg. dried cranberries  
2 cups honey  
1 cup pure maple syrup  
In a bowl combine all dry ingredients. Add honey and syrup stirring to coat. Spoon mixture into small jars and store in refrigerator up to 2 weeks. Perfect topping for ice cream, yogurt or fruit.

\*\*\*\*\*

Sondra O'Connor, Plattsburg, Mo.:

**BRANDIED FRUITCAKE DROP COOKIES**

1/2 cup white raisins  
8-oz. package chopped dates  
1 pound mixed candied fruit  
3 tablespoons brandy (or orange juice)  
1 cup white sugar  
1 cup butter  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
3 eggs  
3 cups flour  
1 teaspoon soda  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg  
1/4 teaspoon cloves  
1 1/2 cups chopped nuts

In a small bowl add raisins, dates, mixed fruit and brandy or orange juice. Let sit 1 hour. In a large bowl cream sugar, butter and vanilla until well mixed. Add eggs and mix well. Sift together the flour, soda, salt and spices. Add slowly to creamed mixture. Add the brandied fruit and nuts. Stir until mixed. Drop by heaping

teaspoonful onto greased cookie sheet. Bake 30 to 35 minutes in a 225-degree oven. Remove from cookie sheet. Cool and store in air-tight container. These freeze well.

\*\*\*\*\*

Shirley Deiser, Kanopolis:  
"Very good & easy to make."

## CREAMY

**CRANBERRY SALAD**

3 cups fresh or frozen cranberries, coarsely chopped  
20-ounce can crushed pineapple, drained  
1 medium apple, peeled & chopped

2 cups miniature marshmallows  
2/3 cup sugar  
1/8 teaspoon salt  
1/4 cup chopped walnuts (optional)  
2 cups whipping cream, whipped

In a bowl combine cranberries, pineapple, apple, marshmallows, sugar, salt and walnuts, if desired. Mix well. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Just before serving fold in whipped topping.

\*\*\*\*\*

Joyce Jandera, Hanover:  
"Makes great gifts or with

just a cup of coffee as a snack."

**CRANBERRY NUT BREAD MINIS**

1 package white cake mix  
3.4-ounce package vanilla flavor instant pudding  
4 large eggs  
1 cup water  
1/4 cup vegetable oil  
1 1/2 cups fresh cranberries, chopped coarsely  
1/2 cup chopped black walnuts or English walnuts  
2 tablespoons butter, melted  
2 tablespoons cinnamon sugar

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Beat first 5 ingredients in a large bowl with mixer for 2 minutes or until well blended. Add cranberries and nuts, fold in just until blended. Pour into 6 foil mini loaf pans sprayed with cooking spray. Bake 40 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pans 10 minutes, remove from pans to wire racks. Brush tops with melted butter and sprinkle with cinnamon sugar. Cool completely.

\*\*\*\*\*

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# 2011 Grass & Grain Holiday Recipe Contest

Lucille Wohler, Clay Center:

**PEANUT CLUSTERS**  
1 package chocolate bark  
1 large jar dry roasted peanuts

In the microwave melt bark using microwave-safe dish. Stir in peanuts. Drop by spoonfuls onto waxed paper. Can substitute pecans for peanuts.

\*\*\*\*\*

Darlene Thomas, Delphos: "Very good. The guys really like this dip."

**ZESTY BEEF DIP**  
1 pound ground beef  
1 clove garlic  
1 medium onion  
1 teaspoon sugar  
1/4 teaspoon oregano  
8-ounce can tomato sauce  
8-ounce package cream cheese  
1/4 cup Parmesan cheese

Brown ground beef. Add garlic and onion. Cook until tender. Drain and add oregano, sugar and tomato sauce and cook covered for 15 minutes. Add cream cheese and Parmesan cheese, stirring until cheese is melted. Serve warm.

\*\*\*\*\*

Millie Conger, Tecumseh: "Makes nice gifts besides being so good."

**CRANBERRY SALSA**  
12-ounce package fresh or frozen cranberries  
1 tablespoon orange zest  
1 navel orange, peeled & coarsely chopped  
1 cup sugar  
2 jalapeno peppers, seeded & coarsely chopped  
2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro  
3 tablespoons coarsely

chopped crystallized ginger

Pulse cranberries in a food processor until coarsely chopped. Transfer to a bowl. Pulse all other ingredients until ingredients are finely chopped. Stir into cranberries, cover and chill 2-24 hours.

\*\*\*\*\*

Millie Conger, Tecumseh:

**BROWN SUGAR PECAN BACON**  
16-ounce package thick cut bacon  
1/2 cup finely packed light brown sugar  
1/2 cup finely ground pecans  
Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line a baking sheet with foil, lightly spray. Place bacon on sheet. In bowl combine sugar and

pecans. Rub sugar mixture over top of bacon slices gently pressing to adhere. Bake for 20-25 minutes. Remove from oven and cool for 5 minutes.

\*\*\*\*\*

Sandy Hill, Eskridge:  
**PECAN-BOURBON CARMELS**  
(4) 11-ounce bags caramel bits  
1/4 cup heavy whipping cream  
2 tablespoons bourbon  
1/2 cup chopped toasted pecans  
Line (2) 9-by-5-inch pans with heavy duty plastic

wrap. Lightly spray plastic wrap with nonstick cooking spray. Combine caramel bits and heavy cream in a medium heavy saucepan. Cook over medium heat stirring often until mixture comes to a boil. Remove from heat and stir in bourbon (mixture will bubble up). Cool for 5 minutes. Pour mixture evenly into prepared loaf pans. Sprinkle with chopped pecans. Cool completely. Lift caramels from pans using plastic wrap as handles. Discard plastic wrap and cut into 1-by-2-inch rectangles. Makes about 40.

\*\*\*\*\*

Kellee Rogers, Topeka:  
**CHOCOLATE CARMEL FONDUE**

(2) 12 1/4-ounce jars caramel ice cream topping  
(4) 4-ounce milk chocolate baking bars, chopped  
1 cup heavy whipping cream  
In a saucepan combine all. Cook over low heat stirring occasionally for about 7 minutes or until chocolate melts and mixture is smooth. Pour into a fondue or slow-cooker on warm setting and serve with different fruits, cake cubes, etc.

\*\*\*\*\*

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# THE WAY WEST

By Jim Gray

### A December Cold Snap

Ranch Notes in Kansas, Colorado, the Indian Territory and Northern Texas was written by Reginald Aldridge and published in 1884. Aldridge was an Englishman who recorded quite faithfully his captivating attraction of the cowboy life. During the summer of 1878, Aldridge and his partner free ranged their cattle on the open prairie. As winter approached they moved to a little stream called Red Creek about seven miles from Medicine Lodge.

“The country there is rather rough and broken, but with a fair amount of timber along the river. We now turned our cattle loose for the winter; that is to say, we no longer herded them nor rounded them up at night. We simply rode round the range (line riding) about twice a day, and turned back anything that was straying beyond what we considered to be the limits.” The object of this system of “range herding,” as it was called,

was to save the cattle as much as possible from being driven about or interfered with. During the winter the cattle lost conditioning on the open range and became more or less weakened. As Aldridge noted, “Any attempt at close herding would certainly cause the loss of a good many that would otherwise have managed to pull through.”

Having spent the summer grazing cattle, Aldridge found himself short of warm clothes as the chill of fall began to settle in. A wagon trip to Newton was in order “to fetch a supply of winter clothing.” On his return trip our adventurous Englishman discovered just how suddenly the weather can change on the open prairie. As he later observed, “One day you may be glad to go about in shirt sleeves, and the next it is so cold that you cannot put on enough clothing to keep yourself warm. It is therefore necessary to go prepared with plenty of

warm clothing on a journey of any length in the winter, however genial the weather may be at the hour of starting. Many a poor fellow caught in “a cold snap” has had his feet frozen so badly that he has been obliged to lose one or both in order to save his life.”

The young cowboy had been driving his ponies all afternoon in an effort to reach a particular house along the trail, but the sun set before arriving at his destination. The ponies were tired so Aldridge resolved to stop and camp for the night. After a little bite to eat he rolled himself up in a buffalo robe and drifted off to sleep. By morning snow was falling. The faint trail was disappearing under the cover of the fresh snow and thoughts of becoming lost quickened his movements as he hitched the team to the wagon. He threw his buffalo robe on top of his packages in the back of the wagon and hurried on. As it turned out the house was only four miles from his camp, but somewhere along the route his precious buffalo robe had blown out of the wagon. Luckily there was really no danger of getting lost in this “little snowstorm,” but the experience taught Aldridge to never take Kansas weather for granted.

After that first snowstorm the weather warmed and life at Red Creek was pleasant for about six weeks, but towards the mid-

dle of December winter really set in. The ice on Medicine River became so thick that riders could cross it on horseback. That winter the cattle didn’t cross the frozen river, which allowed the cowboys to “hole up” in the dugout during the coldest weather.

Of course Christmas was celebrated with as much festivity as possible. A turkey was purchased from a neighboring settler. The postmistress agreed to cook it for the bachelors. On Christmas day two cowboys rode side by side, “bearing the turkey carefully between them in a large tin pan, covered over with a cloth.”

“As they neared the house the horses became restive and wanted to go in opposite directions, and a few moments of fearful suspense ensued. But to the great relief of the anxious spectators, one of the men managed to catch hold of both sides of the pan while the other let go his hold, so that the precious freight was saved from peril, and eventually landed triumphantly on the table.” The old dugout may have been primitive but that Christmas the cowboy shelter was as warm a palace as any place that could be found 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](http://www.droversmercantile.com).

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# Homeground & Other Geographies by Tom Parker

## Occupy Blue Rapids

Much has been written about the Occupy Wall Street movement—oceans of ink, in fact, though it's questionable how many people actually read those millions of words to their bitter end, much less grasped the meanings behind it. My own experience was surprisingly detached. On the one hand I applaud any grassroots attempt to highlight corporate greed and malfeasance; on the other hand, I never quite understood what the protesters hoped to bring about through their actions. CEOs handcuffed and hauled to jail? A total collapse of the financial underpinnings of the United States? Equitable student loans? Free donuts?

Concurrent with the protests was a series of requests we received from a liberal organization intent on expanding the movement into small town Kansas. While I normally find their messages timely and pertinent to my own set of beliefs, these were wildly comical. For instance, they suggested I photograph the bridge over the Big Blue River to illustrate our decaying and neglected infrastructure. Considering that a new bridge is being built as a replacement, the idea had zero merit. Their suggestion to stage a localized Occupy Wall Street protest outside our bank was just plain silly. Our bank is locally owned and never en-

gaged in the wild excesses of the major institutions. It illustrated a point, however: one must choose one's battles wisely.

I had other issues to contend with. Mice, for one. The first few frosts drove any sensible beast

indoors, including a foot-long black snake that had the misfortune to become entangled in a sticky trap. It took my wife and I a good thirty minutes to painstakingly extract it. Mouse-traps baited with peanut butter were spread throughout the house, and as the days went by their telltale snaps echoed down the halls with lethal crispness. Weatherizing our drafty century-old farmhouse also occupied our time, an annual occurrence made necessary by an absence of funds. If I had Bill Gates' financial assets I'd raze the place and start all over with a kitchen the size of Delaware and a bomb-proof tornado shelter re-

plete with library, built-in wine racks and beer tap.

Nestled in my rural complacency, I wondered if I was missing out on a major event, one I could someday brag to my grandchildren that I had been part of. I was too busy making a living to get involved in the peace movement or the hippie culture and missed entirely protests over the war in Vietnam. The conflicts that defined my generation were sadly absent in my personal his-

tory. At my ever-advancing age I knew time was running out. The Tea Party was completely out of the question, so here was a semi-liberal movement that seemed to be gaining traction and notoriety while simultaneously remaining so vague that anyone with any objection could join.

I decided to stage my own movement: Occupy Blue Rapids.

In honesty it had more  
*Continued on page 10*

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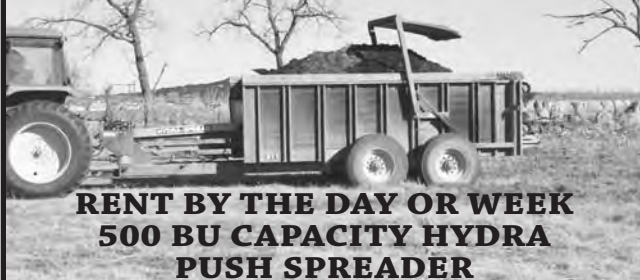


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2010 Bobcat T320 CTL, A/C, Heat, Std. Controls, Hi Flo, Power Bob-Tach™ Mtg. System, Keyless Start, Bkt. Position, Block Heater, BU Alarm, 417 Hrs., Manhattan, KS. EN 1033876 \$ 53,000



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## Homeground

Continued from page 9

to do with overworking than any actual complaint or dissent. I was tired from never having a real day off and saw no end in sight—until realizing that I could tap into a large network and become part of a revolutionary movement, all without leaving the comfort of my house. As a protest it was minimal to the point of nonexistent, but as a movement it was monumental. "I was on the front lines in Blue Rapids," I could someday tell my adoring granddaughters. "Mine was the rallying cry of freedom from oppression!"

The announcement was broadcast over the largest social networking site in the world: Facebook. I ex-

plained that I was holding a one-day protest against deadlines, work of any kind, telemarketers, bills, news, politics and anything not associated with family, books, naps, food and drink. "Nobody is invited but my wife," I wrote. "I'm not getting dressed. I will perform no work. I won't answer the phone or the door. The public is not invited. Stay away."

It was, admittedly, more of a sit-in than a protest. I got up as usual, made a pot of coffee, checked my e-mail and cruised the Web, read a book, dozed on the couch, enjoyed the company of my wife, read some more, drank some more, napped some more, and in general did everything more that brought me joy, enlightenment, relaxation, fulfillment or peace. By

sundown I was ready to tackle the world, though a few cold beers slowly returned me to my senses.

As movements go, I'm not sure Occupy Wall Street managed to change anything. My own occupation, however insignificant, brought about its own subtle, if not life-altering, transformations. I might not have changed the world or stopped corporate greed, but I feel refreshed and energetic, clearer-headed and more enthusiastic about the approaching holiday season. In other words, it was a smashing success. As a benefit I can regale my granddaughters with my time on the picket line and the dangers we faced. "Yep," I'll say, "it was tough, but it was the best nap I ever had."

## Stookey joins KGFA as new general counsel

Randy Stookey will be joining the Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA) staff as vice president and general counsel effective November 7, 2011. Stookey will also serve as the administrator for the Kansas Agricultural Remediation Board.

Stookey spent six years as a staff attorney for the Kansas Department of Agriculture, where he regularly worked with laws and regulations regarding pesticides, fertilizers, grain warehouses, weights and measures and agricul-

tural commodities. He is very familiar with the Kansas Food Safety and Kansas Agricultural Remediation Acts.

Stookey has an undergraduate degree in Agribusiness from Kansas State University and a Juris Doctorate degree from Washburn University Law School. He is also a captain in the Kansas Army National Guard and serves in the Judge Advocate General, Trial Defense Service.

"Randy has the educational background we were

looking for in our new general counsel, and we are confident he will also be able to use his agricultural work experience to thrive in this vital role in our associations," KGFA president Tom Tunnell said. "We are thrilled to have Randy join our staff and welcome him to the KGFA team."

Stookey is replacing Mary Jane Stankiewicz, who is leaving to become director of government relations and communications for the Kansas Board of Regents.

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# REAL ESTATE AUCTION

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19 — 4:00 PM

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501 N. 14TH STREET, MARYSVILLE, KANSAS: 2-Bedroom home currently undergoing extensive remodeling. This home has a full basement and is located on large lot (South 52' of Lots 10, 11, & 12, Block 62 in original town of Palmetto, now incorporated into and a part of City of Marysville, Marshall County, Kansas). This handyman special is located on a corner lot and has various possibilities.

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Buyer to pay 10% down day of Auction with balance due on or before December 29, 2011. Both properties selling "As Is". All inspections including lead base paint inspection to be completed prior to Auction at Buyer's expense if requested. Cost of Title Insurance to be divided equally between Buyer & Seller. Taxes for 2011 and prior years to be paid by Sellers. **STATEMENTS MADE DAY OF AUCTION TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER ANY OTHER INFORMATION.** Contact Vern Gannon Auctioneer/Broker 785-770-0066 or Gannon Real Estate & Auctions 785-537-9003 for viewing or additional information.

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05 GMC C4E Utility Truck  
06 Peterbilt 379 Day Cab  
97 Freightliner FLD Day Cab  
99 International 490 Winch Truck

81 International S2500 Cab & Chassis  
85 International Paystar 5000 Cab & Chassis  
92 International 9600 Cabover w/14 T Dry Tender Transport Box  
03 Chevy Silverado 2500HD-LS Pickup  
04 Ford F450 Super Duty Service Truck

### TRAILERS

03 Flowboy Semi Belly Dump  
06 Belshe DT22 Equipment Trailer  
03 Williams Family Trailers Road Boss Flat Bed Trailer  
04 Chaparral 53 Ft Aluminum Step Deck Triple Axel Trailer

### LOADER/BACKHOE

07 JD 310 SG Loader/Backhoe, 1306 Hrs

### TRENCHER/BACKHOE

04 Vermeer RT650 Trencher/Backhoe, 1111 Hrs  
06 Ditch Witch RT40 Trencher, 808 Hrs

### LIFT

97 Grove 3884 Scissor Lift, 1,678.7

### SKID STEER

06 Doosan Daewoo 460 Plus Skid Steer, 2051 Hrs  
05 Bobcat T250 Multi Terrain Loader, 2761 Hrs  
06 Bobcat S160 Skid Steer Loader, 3268 Hrs

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# Auction Sales Scheduled

December 13 — Marion County commercial building, acreage at Hillsboro. Auctioneers: J.P. Weigand & Sons, Inc.

December 13 — Farm machinery & equipment near Colby for Wendell Farms. Auctioneers: Farm & Ranch Realty, Inc.

December 14 — Tractors, combines, forage harvesting equip., trucks, vehicles, trailers, tillage, planting & haying equip., telehandler, fert & chem. equip., wheel loader, skidsteers, scissor lift, motorgrader online only (www.bigiron.com). Auctioneers: Stock Auction Co.

December 14 — Finney County land at Garden for. Auctioneers: Schrader Real Estate & Auction Co., Inc.

December 15 — real estate & personal property at Manhattan for Joseph Barani. Auctioneers: Crossroads Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

December 15 — Atchison County land at Atchison. Auctioneers: Farmers National Company.

December 15 — Leavenworth County land at Bonner Springs. Auctioneers: Farmers National Company.

December 15 — Tax asset seizure auction at McPherson for KDOR. Auctioneers: United Country Mid West eServices, Inc., Eric Blomquist.

December 17 — Automotive & small engine tools, carpenter tools, new re-

placement parts, go-cart items, collectibles, guns, truck, ATV & misc. at Troy for Tom Jenkins. Auctioneers: Hoffman Auction Service.

December 17 — Cars, guns, coins, antiques, collectibles at El Dorado for Harold Noffsinger Estate. Auctioneers: Chuck Korte Real Estate & Auction Service, Inc.

December 17 — Farm machinery, hog equipment & misc. at Wamego for Richard Weixelman Reduction. Auctioneers: Murray Auction Service.

December 17 — Antiques, advertising signs, old banks, figurines, Coca Cola new/old stock at Benton. Auctioneers: Sundgren Realty Inc.

December 19 — Real estate, 2 homes in Marysville at Marysville for Rick & Janell Linne-mann. Auctioneers: Gannon Real Estate & Auctions.

December 21 — Excavators, wheel loaders, tracked loader, crawler tractors, dozer, scrapers, trucks, trailers, loader/backhoe, trencher/backhoe, lift, skid steer, construction equip. online only (www.bigiron.com). Auctioneers: Stock Auction Co.

December 22 — Ottawa County cropland & improvements at Minneapolis for Rhonda Bradley & Evan Muller. Auctioneers: Omli & Associates, Inc.

December 31 — Harley Gerdes 27th annual New Year's Consignment auc-

tion at Lyndon.

January 6, 2012 — Smith County, KS real estate (auction held at) Franklin, Neb. for Jon & Linda Ferguson & Lyn & Janis Lee (operated by Ferguson Bros., Inc.). Auctioneers: Marshall Land Brokers & Auctioneers.

January 18 — Wabaunsee County farmland, grassland, 3 BD 2 BA home at Alma for Elly & the late Harold Neff. Auctioneers: Steve Murray Auctions.

January 20 — Kansas Auctioneers Association Livestock Market Auctioneers Contest at Gas, KS (just east of Iola).

February 25 — TS Ranch Hereford & Quarter Hores sale at Cottonwood Falls for TS Ranch.

March 3 — 34th annual Gelbvieh & Balancer bull sale at Pomona for Judd Ranch.

March — Concordia Optimist Annual Machinery Consignment auction at Concordia.

March 10 — Bull & female sale at Maple Hill for Mill Brae Ranch.

March 16 — Production sale at Manhattan for BJ Angus Genetics.

## Pottawatomie County tour promotes producer projects, local cost-share program

On Tuesday, December 20, the Middle Kansas WRAPS Program will sponsor a tour of two area farms featuring livestock winter feeding area improvements. Glenn and Jennifer Brunkow, Westmoreland, and Harry and Lisa Moser, Wheaton, will host the tour, which will highlight spring development as a safer, cleaner water source, winter feeding pads, frost-proof water tanks below a pond, and use of buffer strips below feeding pens—all practices which protect water quality. The tour will begin at 2 p.m. leaving the Pottawatomie County Extension office parking lot and will caravan to Glenn Brunkow's ranch first, then head north to the Moser ranch.

Rock Creek, a sub-watershed located within the Middle Kansas River Watershed, continues to register high levels of fecal coliform bacteria, exceeding acceptable levels established by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. The high level of concern is related

to the fact that Rock Creek flows into the Kansas River, which supplies drinking water to many downstream communities, and is used for human contact activities. Sources of the bacterial contamination in the creek come from the feces of warm-blooded animals and humans.

This free educational workshop and tour will highlight best management practices that can reduce contamination, and call attention to available cost-share funds to help producers implement improvements. After the tour, a soup supper will be served at the Mosers' heated shop with a discussion about winter-feeding management and the 70% cost-share opportunities currently available to producers in the Rock Creek Watershed. Please RSVP the Pottawatomie County Extension office at 785-457-3319 by December 19 to help plan food and seating. According to tour organizers, farmers and ranchers need to do every-

thing they can to keep livestock manure and sediment from their operations out of local streams. Confined winter livestock feeding operations often contribute to high levels of bacterial contamination in streams from November to May when livestock are brought closer to home for feeding. If the watershed consistently tests high for fecal coliform bacteria, local landowners risk seeing mandatory regulations instead of voluntary cost-share programs to address the problem.

As a follow-up to the December 20 tour, there will be a sign-up meeting for cost-share funds from the Middle Kansas WRAPS on January 9, 2012 in the Sunflower Room of the Pottawatomie County Extension office at 1 p.m. Producers within the Rock Creek Watershed are encouraged to attend the sign up meeting and should bring their farm maps and ideas for improvements to their livestock operations.

## AUCTION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17 — 10:00 AM

206 N. Griffith — EL DORADO, KANSAS

**Selling:** 1969 Lincoln Continental, 2 dr w/13k act. mi.; 2003 Mustang Mach 1 w/70k mi.; 45 guns; Gold & silver coins; Antiques; Orig. Wayne Willis painting & many collectibles. **Lifetime accumulation.**

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## KDOR TAX ASSET SEIZURE AUCTION

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15 — 4:00 PM

United Country McPherson Auction Gallery, 1337 W. Kansas Avenue  
**MCPHERSON, KS**



This KDOR auction consists of the assets of a restaurant/bar and other consignors including but not limited to a 98 Grand Cherokee, 85 CJ7, Sno-Way Plow and Salt Spreader, 04 Harley Davidson, 90 Blazer, Guns, Coins, Tools, Coin Operated Pool Tables, Super Bowl Sign, Beer Advertisements, Chimineas, Planters, Stands, Vases and much more!

**This auction will be simulcast live thru Proxibid.com**

**For catalog/pictures/internet bidding visit**  
[www.unitedcountrykansas.com](http://www.unitedcountrykansas.com)

A Buyer's Premium and Sales Tax will be charged. Announcements day of auction take precedence.



**ERIC BLOMQUIST, Owner/Broker/Auctioneer**  
United Country MidWest eServices  
1337 W. Kansas, McPherson, KS 67460  
620-245-0292

## AUCTION

Benton Community Center, 150 S. Main

**BENTON, KANSAS**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2011 — 10:00 AM

**Antiques Include:** 1900 Curtis Leger brass coat rack, Hopalong Cassidy motion light, Hershey's 1 cent machine, wicker serving cart, Eastlake marble top table, 5 piece settee, child's metal rocking chair, Camel's hair ribbon display case, 30+ old metal advertising Signs, Old Banks, Figurines, Ashtrays, Hardware Store items, Metal Toys, Baseball Bats, Canes, Thermometers, Many Advertising Items from small towns in Kansas.

**100's of Vintage Coca Cola New/Old Stock out of a warehouse in Minnesota including,** Coca Cola arrow cooler sign, 1939 Coca Cola playing cards, Sprite Boy signs, aluminum door handle, large metal signs, Squirt metal signs, many Coca Cola cardboard signs from the '40s and '50s, Advertising from Nes-bitts, Squirt, Masons Root Beer & More!

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Joe Sundgren, Broker Jeremy Sundgren, 316-377-0013  
Rick Remsberg, 316-322-5391

## AUTOMOTIVE & SMALL ENGINE TOOLS

## AUCTION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17 — 10:00 AM

1436 Mosquito Creek Road — TROY, KS 66087

From Troy, KS: U.S. 36 Hwy. go North on Mosquito Creek Road 1.5 miles.

**TOOLS, CARPENTER TOOLS, NEW REPLACEMENT PARTS, GO-CART ITEMS, COLLECTIBLES, GUNS, TRUCK & ATV, MISC.**

See last week's Grass & Grain for complete listings or go to website for pictures & info:

[www.thenewsleaf.com/hoffman.htm](http://www.thenewsleaf.com/hoffman.htm)

**ALL TOOLS ARE LIKE NEW!**

In case of bad weather, call 913-833-4125 or 913-370-0747, or listen to KNZA 104 FM or KAIR 93.9 FM. Lunch & Restrooms on Grounds.

**SELLER: TOM JENKINS**

**HOFFMAN AUCTION SERVICE**

Jeff Hoffman, Auctioneer • Effingham, KS • (913) 833-4125

## AUCTION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17 — 10:00 AM

From WAMEGO, KS: 1/2 S. to Antelope Creek Rd., SW 2.5 miles OR from Bald Eagle Rd. off K-99 1 W., 1/2 N. OR off K-18 on Antelope Creek Rd. 2 N.

**TRUCKS:** 1994 Freightliner FLD120 low sleeper 48", 408,000 miles; 1985 Ford F350 cab & chassis, Diesel, 91,000 miles; 1978 International 4600 bucket truck; 20' steel truck bed w/grain sides and stock racks; 1992 (?) Ford dually pickup bed, great shape.

**EQUIPMENT:** Allis Chalmers M100B grader, runs good; 1995 JD 693 corn head, poly; 920 JD flex head with straight shafts, wired for 7720 auto head; 1967 JD 4020 w/DuAll loader; Hiniker 12 row cultivator w/shields and furrowing wings; 1830 Case IH 12 row cultivator w/rolling shields, used 1 year; Clipper 560H fertilizer spreader; 4-wheel homebuilt header trailer; 40' 3 blade Scott land plane; 29' Wilrich field cultivator; Crustbuster springtooth; Kent springtooth; Dually service bed; service bed on 3/4 ton pickup trailer; 9 shank Orthman ripper; 1150 IH grinder mixer, rough; 3 pt. rotary hoe; pair 23.1x34 Rice tires on rims; old pull type sprayers; 2 wheel sprayer w/500 gallon tank; 500 gallon steel tank on frame; Bish adapter plate Case IH to JD head; JD dozer blade fits 8640 JD tractor, with mount and cylinders; 28' 3 pt. anhydrous applicator; anhydrous shanks; new chisel points; fuel tank on stand; several plastic tanks; 1000 gallon steel tank; dredge pump; pull type 5' rotary mower; plastic saddle tanks; 4 wheel trailer; 4 wheel running gear; Ferris Wheel bale loader; 6 row International solid shank row crop cultivator; concrete bucket for crane.

**IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT:** M&M propane motor on trailer; centrifugal pump; Cummins V6 diesel engine; assorted 4 to 8 inch aluminum 30 foot pipes.

**HOG EQUIPMENT:** 3 round hog feeders; 4 hog/calf A huts, wood; tilt bed hog trailer, 9x9; stainless steel pig nursery feeders; plastic pig nursery feeders; coated hog flooring; plastic hog flooring; slide in pickup stock rack, 8'; 6 rolls wire netting fence; **NEW in boxes, hog nursery heat exchangers, air intakes, hog waterers (cup type);** used vent fans; cattle squeeze chute; 2 home built bulk bins; calf feeder; gear reduction motors and drives for flex auger; flex auger fighting.

**ANTIQUES:** 2 bottom steel wheel AC plow; new Aspinwall potato planter; 1 windmill tower and 3 heads; tandem pull disc; disc, single gang.

**FOR PARTS:** WC AC tractor; 54 Chevy 3/4 ton pickup; 55 Chevy truck, old style; old JD manure spreader.

**Few items on trailer. Other miscellaneous items and equipment. Few items on trailer so be on time!**

**TERMS:** Cash or good check day of auction. Statements made day of auction take precedence over printed material. Not responsible for accidents. Lunch by Wabaunsee 4-H Club.

**RICHARD WEIXELMAN REDUCTION SALE**

For more information, contact:

**MURRAY AUCTION AND REALTY**

Steve Murray, Broker/Auctioneer, 785-556-4354

Auctioneers: Bill Raine & Bob Murray

[www.murrayauctionandrealty.com](http://www.murrayauctionandrealty.com)

## LAND AUCTION!

**Leavenworth County, Kansas**  
**140± Acres**

*Will be offered in four tracts and as a total unit!*

**Thursday, December 15, at 4:00 PM**  
**At the Agricultural Hall of Fame**  
**630 North 126th Street • Bonner Springs, Kansas**

For property details, contact:

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Real Estate Sales • Auctions • Appraisals  
Farm and Ranch Management • Insurance • Consultation  
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**Kevin Gutshall, Agent**  
Falls City, Nebraska  
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[KGutshall@FarmersNational.com](mailto:KGutshall@FarmersNational.com)

[www.FarmersNational.com](http://www.FarmersNational.com)

## LAND AUCTION!

**179± Acres • Atchison County, Kansas**

**Thursday, December 15, 10:00 AM**  
**At the Atchison Elks Club**  
**609 Kansas Avenue • Atchison, Kansas**

For property details, contact:

**Farmers National Company**  
Real Estate Sales • Auctions • Appraisals  
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**Kevin Gutshall, Agent**  
Falls City, Nebraska  
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[KGutshall@FarmersNational.com](mailto:KGutshall@FarmersNational.com)

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# BAXTER BLACK

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

## The McGuffin

Three giant lobby groups from an alternative time-warp are engaged in a furious hissy fit over whose purpose is raising money to pay lawyers. "Send Money so we can Litigate, Pay company Executives, and Solicit more Funds!"

"Animals are overrunning government property," they exclaimed, "...and endangering the environment! These are domestic animals that have been turned loose to fend for themselves and have multiplied exponentially!" Sound familiar?

Yes, the lobby groups are the usual suspects; Sierra Club, Audubon Society, and the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). The "McGuffin" is what Alfred Hitchcock called the object in the movie around which the plot thickened but had little significance on its own. Like the missing microfilm, hid-

den treasure or secret code.

Examples: When their funds and influence ran low in 1996, the Sierra Club hoisted a grand campaign to drain Lake Powell. The Audubon Society chummed up to Ted Turner by offering him "environmentalist credibility" in return for a big donation, and the HSUS is the first one there with their hand about to solicit funds from hurricane pets to horse abuse to Missouri Prop. B.

The McGuffin in this case is feral cats. They are accused of eating birds, rabbits, wood rats, varmints and vermin, some of which are...you guessed it, **FEDERALLY PROTECTED!** Like the spotted owl, short-nosed sucker and Loach minnow.

When I allude to these three litigating lobby groups as "living in the fourth Dimension," it is because in their alterna-

tive world, common sense is illegal and economic impact has no meaning. Two of the groups want to trap the cats, the other group is against trapping. It makes no difference which is which, it is all about raising funds to pay lawyers, corporate executives, and advertising to raise more funds, and po-

litical lobbying. It's like watching three buzzards fighting over a flat possum on a road that no one uses.

In this operatic charade the actors all claim the high moral ground. They are plutocratic beggars, pious in their self-image. Emerson said it all, "The louder he spoke of

his honor, the faster we counted our spoons."

Follow the money. All you have to do is look at the budget and financial statement of most non-profit profiteers in the now profane world of eco-animal rights, and you realize how bizarre this parasitism has become. How can we control these

feral cats?

In the real world every farmer's daughter, rancher's wife, woodsman's grandchild and prairie dog hunter's son knows the solution. Buy 'em a box of shells and give 'em a week in the woods. Where are Davy Crockett and ol' Betsy when we need 'em?

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