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A Southeast Community College student gets hands-on training at the Milford, Neb. campus as part of the Deere Construction and Forestry Equipment Tech program.

Courtesy photo

Program helps train future technicians

By Donna Sullivan, Editor

Training technicians can be an expensive undertaking for an equipment dealership, with an investment of as much as \$5,000 per trainee. If a trainee doesn't elect to stay with the dealership, that investment never sees any kind of return.

A program designed to impact that scenario is in its eleventh year at Southeast Community College in Milford, Neb. The Deere Construction and Forestry Equipment Tech Program is a partnership between John Deere, the student, the Deere construction equipment dealer and the college. Murphy Tractor has been their main dealer partnership throughout the years and boasts an 86% retention rate of program graduates who continue their employment with them.

"I wish that when I was in the industry we could have had an 86% retention rate," said program chair Bill Vocasek. "I believe that it is both the training that the students receive and the work that Murphy Tractor does to retain them."

The program began in 2000 with seven students. There are now typically 12-25 students enrolled each year, and every one must have a sponsoring dealership. Their course work is all done at the college, and they go back to their sponsoring dealership for co-op education twice throughout their college career. They graduate with an Associates of Applied Science degree.

Scott Dickey, training coordinator for Murphy Tractor and Equipment Company, got the program started and has been the board chairman ever since.

"When the student graduates, they are in John Deere's eyes considered a Level 2 technician. So they can go off to the factory for instructor-led courses, then we immediately can get them into advanced training with John Deere," he explained. "Normally if you took someone off the street, it would be one to two years before they are ready to go to instructor training. So it's a huge investment savings for us."

The biggest challenge for coordinators of the program has been finding quality students. "Finding students that are career driven today is a lot harder than it was 10-15 years ago," he said. "But it has worked out very well for us and we wouldn't

trade it for anything, that's for sure." He added that students don't have to be right out of high school to qualify, but that older students would also be accepted.

Murphy Tractor offers 100% of books and tuition paid to each student that is selected. The student pays the cost up front, but once they graduate, Murphy Tractor will reimburse them quarterly over the course of two years.

According to Vocasek, the next starting class will be in July, 2013.

Moran, Nelson work to stop family farm and ranch overregulation

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) and Ben Nelson (D-Neb.) last week led 28 of their colleagues in asking U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis to withdraw the recently proposed rule that limits the ability of farmers and ranchers to hire youth to work in agriculture — threatening the education and training of future farmers. At issue are the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) proposed changes to the Fair Labor Standard Act which fail to take into account the history and practices of American agriculture.

"After having additional time to review the Proposed Rule and compare the proposed changes to existing statutory law, regulations, and the Department's existing interpretive documents, we believe initial concerns were well-founded. As a result of these concerns, we request the Department withdraw the Proposed Rule in its entirety," the senators state in a letter to Secretary Solis. "It is puzzling why the Department would suddenly propose changes to existing regulations, particularly considering the advancements in farm equipment and adoption of technologies that have improved operator safety in the last 35 years."

Until recently, farms

jointly owned and operated by multiple family members had discretion over the responsibilities they gave their children on the farm. But the proposed rule change would do away with that freedom and extend the parental exemption to farms owned solely by a parent. It is common in rural America for siblings to jointly own and operate farms and for extended family and neighbors to participate in agriculture production.

The Department also proposes new restrictions on the type of activities younger farm workers would be allowed to perform and would limit the ability of the Cooperative Extension Service and vocational education programs, like those operated by 4-H, FFA and local school districts, to offer training to rural youth.

"Our biggest concern is that Washington bureaucrats are either unaware or are simply ignoring generations of tradition," said Steve Baccus, a grain farmer from Ottawa County, who serves as president of Kansas Farm Bureau. "Our farms are not sweatshops where young people are taken advantage of. Our farms are where we teach them about a work ethic and responsibility."

"In towns from coast to coast, consumers enjoy a

safe and affordable food supply due to the efficiency and performance of America's family farmers, but the Department of Labor's proposed regulations threaten the future of our industry," said American Farm Bureau Federation president Bob Stallman. "In addition to being the economic backbone of so many of America's towns, the traditions and the work ethic associated with growing up on a family farm are worth preserving, and the American Farm Bureau Federation appreciates Sens. Moran and Nelson for taking the lead on this important issue."

Before making such drastic changes to farm labor rules, the Department should identify reliable evidence and data that shows a need for these changes. But the Department of Labor admits it lacks the data to justify many of its suggested changes. Furthermore, according to the National Farm Medicine Center, youth-related injuries from farm accidents have declined by nearly 60 percent from 1998 to 2009.

In addition to Moran and Nelson, the letter is signed by U.S. senators Pat Roberts (R-Kan.), Mike Johanns (R-Neb.), Roy Blunt (R-Mo.), Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.), Kent Conrad (D-N.D.), Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), Herb Kohl (D-Wis.), Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.), John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.), John Boozman (R-Ark.), Dan Coats (R-Ind.), Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.), John Hoeven (R-N.D.), John Thune (R-S.D.), Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.), Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.), Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), Thad Cochran (R-Miss.), Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), David Vitter (R-La.), James Risch (R-ID), Mark Pryor (D-Ark.), James Inhofe (R-Okla.), and Mark Kirk (R-Ill.).

Moran and Nelson, along with 32 of their colleagues, previously wrote to Secretary Solis to request a 60-day extension of the comment period on the proposed changes to the Fair Labor Standard Act because the previous 60-day comment period fell during the fall harvest season. In response, the Department extended the comment period by 30 days.



This calf finds shelter in the cedars from the first real snow of the season.

Photo by Ken Sullivan





The Learning Post

By Gordon Morrison
Concordia Rancher and
Former Agriculture Educator

Hollywood — Do It Again

Who will win the Cotton Bowl, K-State or Arkansas? It will probably be the team that has gotten “up” for the game. Which coach can get his players conditioned psychologically so that their minds will push their bodies to do the extraordinary.

We know that the mind and emotions can greatly control the way the body responds and behaves. If the mind can be influenced in a certain direction, it can in turn influence or control the body, giving it the impelling force to persevere and push ahead in strenuous situations.

In the late 1930s, Germany's Hitler was a great threat to surrounding countries, declaring war on most countries in Europe. President Roosevelt wanted America to become involved in stopping this maniac, but the American people said “No.” They still had vivid memories of World War I and were not ready to fight again, preferring peace and neutrality. Then on December 7, 1941, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Almost overnight the minds of the people of the United States changed. They were ready to declare war on the Axis powers, Japan, Germany, and Italy. America's young men by the thousands voluntarily enlisted in the armed forces.

Hollywood helped to influence decisions and rally support with newsreels that were shown in movie theaters across the land, including the Pearl Harbor attack as well as news of other battles and conditions around the world in both the Pacific and European theaters. Movies with stories about the war and those closely affected by it were produced by Hollywood. I remember one in particular that impressed me at the time. It was about a U.S. military unit that was fighting the Japanese in the Philippines. Without mercy, the Japanese were annihilating the beleaguered American soldiers, reducing their numbers until just a few were left. The question then was whether to surrender or to fight to the death. The remaining soldiers decided to dig their own graves, set up their weapons in the graves, and to fight and defend until they were killed. It was a powerful expression of loyalty, patriotism, and bravery. Movies of this kind bonded the civilian and military populations, mak-

ing them determined to defeat the enemy at all costs, which they did.

In more recent years, the movie “Saving Private Ryan,” was effective in that it caused one to appreciate what a great generation of men had done to bring military victory and preserve our precious freedoms that we are prone to take for granted.

Recently we watched a re-run of “The Patriot,” a movie about countrymen who were involved in the War of Independence in the early days of our nation. It showed the huge contrast between the Continental Army of the thirteen colonies, consisting of farmers, merchants, and silver and wood craftsmen, who mostly furnished their own equipment of horses, clothing, and weaponry, and the well-supplied British. The ragtag Continental soldiers challenged the renowned, prestigious regular army of the British Empire when it would appear in the natural they did not have a chance of winning. They were able to defeat their foe, not by means of great numbers, superior armaments, or fighting experience, but by sheer determination, bravery, and adopting new and different formations such as guerilla warfare. The leadership of the Colonial command rallied the demoralized troops to try again and again, not giving up until victory was won.

So many people watch movies, probably more so at home these days but also in theaters, that Hollywood has a powerful tool for influencing people and the way they think. Wouldn't it be great if they used this medium more for the betterment of our country — to educate and to encourage patriotism, compassion, bravery, and appreciation for the better things in life, and to inspire to greatness? All this could be done while providing entertainment. So much of what is shown on films today is degrading and vulgar, but there are some good movies being made. What can we do to encourage production of more of these positive messages, films that influence us to go from mundane behavior to inspirational creativity? As a matter of economics, if no one watched the “crappy” shows, producers would have to quit making them and would hopefully strive for better quality entertainment.

Eisenhower Presidential Library staffer recognized for outstanding achievement

Linda Kuntz, clerk at the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum, has received the Archivist's Award for Outstanding Achievement. The award was presented by David Ferriero, Archivist of the United States, during a ceremony on Dec. 8 at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C.

The Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum developed a living history garden using seeds and tools from the early 1900s. Kuntz gladly stepped in as the project coordinator. She worked with state 4-H officials and obtained permission to develop a project that qualifies for national level awards. It is the only 4-H project of its kind in the nation. Kuntz extensively researched and developed the materials for the project, recruited and trained the youth and also developed the research project for the participants. During the garden season, the “Eisenhower family” works the garden a few times a week, wearing period clothing and acting in character. The “Eisenhower family” consists of the mother Ida, Ike, his five brothers and a neighborhood friend. A total of twelve children and three mothers participate.

During their time in the garden, the children work the garden, play games and walk around the complex “peddling” produce from the garden. They have a lemonade stand where they sell lemonade and cookies to visitors for five-cents, which is the price that would have been



Linda Kuntz relishes the moment as some of the “Eisenhower” children visit with David Ferriero, Archivist of the United States during his visit to the Eisenhower Presidential Library last summer.

Courtesy photo

paid at that time.

“This project has helped make the Eisenhower family come alive to our visitors,” Kuntz said. “As a long-time 4-H leader, my first thought was to involve 4-H youth. This has been both a fun and an educational experience for the participants, as well as for me.”

“The program will continue to grow and evolve, with historical accuracy our goal. It has been a lot of work, but it has been very worthwhile,” Kuntz concluded.

The “Eisenhower family” has participated in various public programs in-

cluding the Eisenhower family reunion and a visit from the Archivist of the U.S. They also sold cookies and lemonade to spectators at a vintage ‘baseball’ game.

In addition, the “Eisenhower family” has reached out to the community by developing a public program and doing presentations at group meetings. They attended a presentation on Abilene in the early 1900s given by the local historical society. They developed a float which has been in three local parades, winning second place in the non-commercial division in one parade.

Kansas leaders approve NBAF bonds

(AP) - Kansas officials have authorized issuing \$45.4 million in bonds for the next phase of construction of a new \$650 million National Bio and Agro-De-

fense Facility in Manhattan.

Gov. Sam Brownback and legislative leaders who comprise the state finance council approved the bonds

during a brief meeting last week. Of the total bonds issued, \$40 million will be matched with \$40 million in federal funding to construct a central utilities building for the new lab.

The remaining \$5.4 million will be used to demolish a grain mill on the site and rebuild it at a new location on the Kansas State University campus.

Landon Fulmer, the governor's policy director, says the Department of Homeland Security expects to begin final site preparation and construction of the utility plant in early 2012.

An optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.
--Bill Vaughan

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Ag producers in Salina teach children about farming

(AP) - Salina-area advocates for agriculture are making an extra effort to teach young students about farming and ranching, saying that too many of today's youngsters don't know enough about how their food is produced.

The group takes animals, plants and seeds to the classrooms, shares weekly emails and generally works hard to bring knowledge of farming into the classrooms, the Salina Journal reported.

"We're gonna lose our industry if we don't educate," said Pete Meagher, a farmer-rancher from eastern Saline County who also teaches woodworking at Salina Central High School.

Meagher trades emails every week with teachers and students in several Salina schools, discussing general farm happenings such as the calving season in the spring and wheat

planting in the fall. He visits Schilling Elementary and Oakdale Elementary regularly to familiarize students with agriculture.

The extra education is needed to return a general understanding about food production to the public, Meagher said.

"We've got people in Washington who are completely clueless about what goes on at the farm," he said.

Recently, a young bull calf was the center of attention for 66 fourth-graders from Schilling, who fed it, petted it and learned about cows from its owner, Connie Cox-Dorf, a farmer-rancher near Assaria. The students found the exercise fun, but it also combined several subjects, among them math, science, politics and geography. After the Schilling visit, the calf was hauled to Oakdale Ele-

mentary School, where it was introduced to three classes.

Meagher and Cox-Dorf help with Ag Day, an education program staged every September by Farm Bureau and other agencies for Saline County fourth-graders. But Meagher felt a more personal approach was needed "to reach some of our urban kids and teach them a little something about farming in general."

The farmer connection is important because the students' lack of general knowledge can be surprising, said Anne Abell, a teacher at Schilling.

For example, Abell once asked some students how wheat becomes bread.

"They thought airplanes flew over the fields, sucked up the wheat and dropped it onto Dillons, and Dillons makes the bread," Abell said.

Since September, she

has brought in soybean plants for the students to touch and taste. They talked about combines, planted wheat in a pan and watched it grow, learning several lessons along the way.

Meagher also stresses that producers treat their animals humanely.

Some people believe that cattle producers are "just mean to animals, and we're not," Meagher said.

"We take probably better care of our animals than we do ourselves."


It's easy to forget that "our kids all live in town. They don't have any concept" that Salina is surrounded by food production that is distributed worldwide, Abell said. Only a few of the students at Schilling and Oakdale have grandparents who farm.

Abell said some of the

students have no interest in agriculture, but start paying attention when she activates a blog or Meagher discusses the technology used in agriculture, such as global positioning systems and auto-steer tractors.

Spreading the word is important to farmers, Meagher said.


"If nothing else, we're gonna go down with a fight."



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Our Daily Bread

***** By G&G Area Cooks *****

Carol Kohake, Seneca, Wins Final Woman's Page Contest Of The Year

Winner, Carol Kohake, Seneca: "This has been a family tradition for a long time."

REUBEN BREAD

- 1 frozen loaf of bread
- 6-ounce package corned beef (thinly sliced)
- 3 to 4 slices Swiss cheese
- 1/2 cup sauerkraut
- 1 tablespoon oleo

Thaw bread dough so it can be worked with. Roll into a 9-by-13-inch rectangle. Butter the dough with the oleo. Down the center six inches of bread, layer corned beef, cheese and sauerkraut. Make 1-inch slits along the edges of dough on both sides. Braid the strips overlapping as you go. I like to brush egg whites over dough and sprinkle with celery seed. Let raise and bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes.

Jan Schoshke, Brookville: "Received this from a friend and loved it. So easy."

HOT CHEESE BALL

- (3) 8-ounce packages cream cheese, room temperature
- 1/2 onion
- 3 jars dried beef
- 10 jalapenos, seeded & de-veined

Put onion, beef, jalapenos in food processor and chop. Mix with cream cheese.

- Brenda Watts, El Dorado:
- SCALLOPED FRESH OYSTERS
- 2 1/2 cups coarse cracker crumbs
 - 1 pint oysters, drained
 - 1/4 cup oyster liquor
 - 3/4 cup half & half
 - 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
 - 1/3 cup butter
- Arrange 1/3 of cracker crumbs in well buttered baking dish. Cover with half the oysters, then a layer of

crumbs, remaining oysters, then remaining crumbs. Blend liquor and liquids and pour over oysters and crumbs. Dot with the butter on each layer (might need more butter). If it seems dry, add a little more half & half and oyster liquor. Bake at 350 degrees for 55 minutes or until oysters are done.

Millie Conger, Tecumseh: APPLE CABBAGE SLAW

- 1/2 cup oil
 - 3 tablespoons cider vinegar
 - 2 tablespoons honey
 - 1/2 teaspoon salt
 - 1/8 teaspoon pepper
 - 10-ounce package finely shredded cabbage
 - 1 cup dried fruit & nut mix
 - 2 apples, cored & finely chopped
 - 2 green onions, minced
- Whisk first 5 ingredients in a large bowl, add cabbage and remaining ingredients.

Toss well. Cover and chill until ready to serve.

Lucille Wohler, Clay Center: "Great on a winter day." CHICKEN & NOODLES

- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- Parsley
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 2 cups cubed cooked chicken
- 3 cups cooked medium egg noodles

Mix soup, milk, pepper, cheese, chicken and noodles in saucepan. Garnish with parsley.

Rose Edwards, Stillwater, Okla.: SLOW COOKER BROCCOLI CHEDDAR SOUP

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 2 tablespoons flour
- (2) 14.5-oz. cans chicken broth
- 2 cups peeled & diced boiling potatoes
- 3 cups broccoli florets, chopped & thinly sliced stems
- 12-ounce can evaporated milk
- 12 ounces sharp Cheddar grated cheese
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- Salt & pepper

In a large skillet melt butter. Add onion and cook until tender and turning brown, about 3 minutes. Stir in flour and cook for 30 seconds longer. Gradually whisk in 1 can broth and stir until sim-

mering and thickened. Transfer onion mixture to slow cooker. Add remaining can broth and potatoes, stirring to combine. Cover and cook on high setting for 2 hours or until starting to simmer. Stir in broccoli and milk. Cover and cook 30 minutes longer or until broccoli is tender. Add cheese and stir until melted. Stir in lemon juice, salt and pepper.

The following are recipes that remained from the holiday contest:

Kathy Hogue, Alma/Topeka, thinks "serving ranch-raised Angus is one of the best ways to please visitors. Why not invite friends for dinner?"

BLUESTEM BEEF BRISKET

- 1/3 cup water
- 1/8 teaspoon ground red pepper
- 1 teaspoon minced onion
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1/3 cup ketchup
- 1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon beef bouillon granules
- 3 1/2 pound beef brisket

Mix water, onion, Worcestershire sauce, vinegar, bouillon, red pepper, chili powder, ketchup and brown sugar. Trim fat from beef and lay it

in a 9-by-13-inch glass baking dish. Pour liquid mixture over the top. Cover with foil. Bake at 325 degrees for 1 1/2 hours. Remove from oven, turn beef over and bake at 315 degrees for an additional 1 1/2 hours. Turn oven down to 290 degrees for last 30 minutes.

Sandy Hill, Eskridge: SEASON'S BEST SUGAR COOKIES

- 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
 - 1 cup butter or margarine, softened
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla
 - 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
 - 1 egg
 - 2 1/2 cups flour
 - 1 teaspoon baking soda
 - 1 teaspoon cream of tartar
- White Glaze:
- 2 cups powdered sugar
 - 2 tablespoons milk
 - 1/4 teaspoon almond extract
- Sprinkles: red edible glitter or red sugar

In a large bowl beat 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar and the butter with electric mixer on medium speed or mix with spoon. Stir in vanilla, 1/2 teaspoon almond extract and the egg. Stir in flour, baking soda and cream of tartar. Cover and refrigerate about 2 hours or until firm. Heat oven to 375 degrees. On lightly floured

cloth covered surface, roll half of dough at a time to 1/8-inch thick. Cut into desired shapes. On ungreased cookie sheets space 2 inches apart. Bake 7 to 8 minutes or until light brown. Remove from cookie sheet to cookie rack. Cool completely. Mix glaze ingredients until smooth and desired spreading consistency adding a few drops milk if needed. Spread glaze over cookies and sprinkle with edible glitter. Makes 5 dozen.

Kellee Rogers, Topeka: EGGNOG POUND CAKE

- 16-ounce package pound cake mix
- 1 1/4 cups eggnog
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Beat all ingredients at low speed with mixer until blended. Then beat 2 more minutes. Pour into a lightly greased 9-by-5-inch loaf pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour to 1 hour and 5 minutes or until toothpick inserted comes out clean. Cool in pan on a wire rack 10 minutes. Remove from pan to wire rack to cool completely, about 1 hour.

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Doris Shivers, Abilene:
TARRAGON CHICKEN KIEV
6 tablespoons butter (no substitutes), softened, divided
1 1/2 teaspoons minced fresh tarragon or 1/2 teaspoon dried tarragon
4 boneless skinless chicken breast halves
Salt, pepper & ground nutmeg to taste
1 egg
2 tablespoons water
1/2 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 cup dry bread crumbs

Lemon Tarragon Sauce:
3 tablespoons butter (no substitutes)
4 1/2 teaspoons all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon ground mustard
1 1/4 cups chicken broth
1 1/2 teaspoons minced fresh tarragon or 1/2 teaspoon dried tarragon
2 egg yolks
1 tablespoon lemon juice

In a small bowl, combine 3 tablespoons butter and tarragon; chill. Shape tarragon butter into four 2-inch logs; freeze until firm. Flatten chicken to 1/8-inch thickness; season with salt, pepper and nutmeg. Center a butter log on each chicken breast. Roll up and tuck in ends; secure with a toothpick. In a shallow bowl, beat egg and water. Coat chicken with flour, then dip in egg mixture and roll in bread crumbs. In a skillet, cook chicken in remaining butter until golden brown. Transfer to a greased 8-inch square baking pan. Bake, uncovered at 350 degrees for 20 minutes, or until chicken juices run clear. Meanwhile, for

sauce, melt butter in a saucepan over low heat. Stir in flour and mustard until smooth. Gradually stir in broth and tarragon. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Reduce heat. In a bowl, combine egg yolks and lemon juice. Gradually whisk a small amount of hot mixture into yolks. Return all to the pan, stirring constantly. Cook and stir until sauce reaches 160 degrees, about 1 minute. Discard toothpicks from chicken; serve with sauce. Yield: 4 servings.

Shirley Deiser, Kanopolis:
WHITE CHOCOLATE BREAD PUDDING WITH TART CHERRY SAUCE
2 cups dried cherries
2 cups cherry juice blend
1/2 cup sugar
1-pound loaf French bread, cut into 1-inch cubes
3 cups heavy whipping cream
10 ounces white chocolate, coarsely chopped
1 cup 2% milk
1/2 cup sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon nutmeg
6 eggs, lightly beaten
White baking chocolate curls

In a large saucepan bring the cherries, juice and sugar to a boil, stirring occasionally. Reduce heat and simmer uncovered for 5 minutes. Remove cherries with a slotted spoon; set aside. Return liquid to a boil and cook until reduced to about 3/4 cup. Return cherries to pan (cool). Place bread cubes in a greased 9-by-13-inch pan. In

a large saucepan combine the cream, white chocolate, milk, sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg. Cook and stir over medium heat until chocolate is melted. Stir a small amount of mixture into eggs. Return all to pan stirring constantly. Pour mixture over bread cubes. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes or until knife inserted near the center comes out clean. Serve warm with cherry sauce.

Rose Edwards, Stillwater, Okla.:
SWEET POTATO GRITS
2 cups water
2 cups whole milk
1 cup stone ground grits
2 medium sweet potatoes, peeled & grated
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon pepper
1/4 teaspoon ginger
1 pinch cinnamon
1 tablespoon unsalted butter

In large pan combine water and milk and bring to a gentle boil. Slowly add grits, whisking constantly. Add sweet potatoes. Season with salt and pepper. Decrease heat to low and simmer stirring often, until grits are creamy and thick 45-60 minutes. Make sure grits and sweet potatoes are done and tender. Add ginger, cinnamon and butter.

Shirley Deiser, Kanopolis:
PINEAPPLE BANANA BREAD
1 cup flour
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/8 teaspoon baking powder
1 egg
1/3 cup canola oil
2/3 cup sugar
2/3 cup mashed banana
1/2 teaspoon vanilla
8-ounce can crushed pineapple, drained
1/4 cup chopped walnuts

In a large bowl combine first 5 ingredients. Add egg, oil, sugar, banana and vanilla just until moistened. Fold in pineapple and nuts. Pour into 2 greased loaf pans and bake at 350 degrees for 40 to 45 minutes.

Karen Saner, Burns:
SLOPPY JOES
1 pound hamburger
1/4 cup chopped onion
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
2 tablespoons brown sugar
1 tablespoon vinegar
1 teaspoon prepared mustard
1 cup tomato juice or 1/2 cup ketchup
1 teaspoon salt
Saute' the hamburger and onion in a skillet. Drain. Add the rest of the ingredients and simmer 15-30 minutes.

Serve in 6-8 hamburger buns (if mixture is too juicy, sift in a small amount of flour while stirring vigorously).

Frances Otto, Lyons:
CRANBERRY WHIP
1/2 pound cranberries
3/4 cup sugar
1 cup grapes
1/2 cup chopped pecans
1 pint whipped cream
Grind cranberries and let stand in sugar overnight. Add grapes and nuts and whipped cream about 3 hours before serving. Keep in refrigerator.

Darlene Thomas, Delphos:
TANGERINE-CRANBERRY RELISH
12-ounce package fresh cranberries (3 cups)
2 medium tangerines
1/4 to 1/3 cup sugar or sugar substitute equivalent to 1/4 cup to 1/3 cup sugar

Rinse cranberries under running water and discard any soft or old berries; set aside. Slice each unpeeled tangerine into fifths; remove seeds. Place tangerine slices in a food processor; cover and process until coarsely

chopped. Transfer to a medium bowl. Add all but 1/2 cup of the cranberries to the food processor, cover and process until coarsely chopped. Add to tangerines in a bowl, stir in the remaining 1/2 cup cranberries. Stir in enough of the sugar to sweeten to taste, cover and chill 1 hour. Stir before serving. Makes 3 cups.

With the sugar substitute you get 20 calories per 1/2 cup and 6g carbs.

Lois Lahodny, Belleville:
"This makes a good tasting tea for Christmas or any party."

CRANBERRY TEA CONCENTRATE
1 quart cranberry juice cocktail
6 ounces frozen orange juice
6 ounces frozen lemonade
1 1/4 cups sugar
1 package red hot candies (1/2 cup)
1 stick cinnamon
2 cloves

Boil all together for 10 minutes. Strain and store. Mix 1 cup with 2 cups tea.

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Maria C. Biffel, Carlin, Nev.:

LEFTOVER WHIPPED CREAM PIE

1 cup ground tea cookies, Maria Cookies (Mexican aisles in groceries) or Digestive Cookies, ground in a food processor

1/2 to 1 cup melted margarine

1 drop vanilla extract

1 cup whipped cream

Melt the margarine in the microwave. Add the cookies, vanilla and mix. If the mix is too dry add more melted margarine. If the mix is too moist add 1 to 2 teaspoons of flour. In a glass pan pour the cookie mix and press it against the pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 to 15 minutes or until golden. When ready, take it out, cool it and add the whipped cream over the pie. Serve and enjoy.

Mary Longren, Holton:

CHOCOLATE ANGEL PIE

Meringue Cloud:

2 egg whites

1/8 teaspoon salt

1/8 teaspoon cream of tartar

1/2 cup granulated sugar

1 cup finely chopped pecans

1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Chocolate Cream Filling:

4 ounces real dark chocolate

3 tablespoons water

1 teaspoon vanilla

1 cup heavy cream, whipped

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. In mixer bowl, beat the egg whites until foamy. Beat in the salt and cream of tartar. Add sugar, 1 tablespoon at a time, beating well after each addition. Continue to beat until very stiff peaks form. Fold in the nuts and vanilla by hand. Spoon into a lightly buttered 8-inch pie shell. With a large spoon, spread meringue on bottom and build up sides at least 1/2 above edge of pan-this should form a nest-like shell. Bake at 300 degrees for 35-40 minutes. Remove from oven and cool.

For Chocolate Cream Filling: melt chocolate and water in a pan over hot water.

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Pour into medium mixing bowl, stir in vanilla and cool until slightly thickened. Whip the cream and fold carefully into the cooled chocolate mixture. Pile into the cooled meringue shell and smooth off top with a spoon or spatula. Chill 4-5 hours until chocolate cream is firm. Serve small slices with an added dollop of whipped cream topped with a maraschino cherry.

Gale Rathbun, Webber:

“The cranberries turn out so sweet that most people think they are cherries.”

BERRY MALLOW YAM BAKE

1/2 cup flour

1/2 cup packed brown sugar

1/2 cup oatmeal, uncooked

2-3 teaspoons cinnamon

1/3 cup butter

(2) 18-ounce cans yams, drained

2 cups fresh cranberries, rinsed & drained

20 large marshmallows

Combine flour, brown sugar, oatmeal and cinnamon. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Lightly toss 1 cup of crumb mixture with yams and cranberries. Arrange in a 2-quart casserole dish. Sprinkle with remaining crumbs. Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees for 35-45 minutes until yams are cooked through. Top with marshmallows and continue baking about 5 minutes longer until marshmallows are lightly browned. Yields 8 servings.

Millie Conger, Tecumseh:

CRANBERRY ORANGE BUTTER

1 cup salted butter, softened

1/2 cup finely chopped sweetened dried cranberries, divided

2 tablespoons orange zest

1 tablespoon orange juice

In a bowl, combine butter, berries, zest and orange juice. On a flat surface place a large

piece of parchment paper or waxed paper. Spoon butter mixture into a 1 1/2-inch thick log on parchment paper. Fold 1 edge of paper over the butter mixture, and wrap under the butter mixture. Smooth sides to even log. Twist ends of paper in opposite directions to seal. Refrigerate for 1 hour. Remove paper and roll in remaining chopped cranberries. Reroll butter mixture in paper, seal and refrigerate for 4 hours or until ready to use. Slice into pats. Very pretty.

Rose Edwards, Stillwater, Okla.:

CRANBERRY NUT BREAD

2-layer size white cake mix

3.4-ounce package vanilla instant pudding

4 eggs

1 cup water

1/4 cup oil

1 1/2 cups fresh or frozen cranberries, chopped

1/2 cup chopped walnuts

Topping:

2 tablespoons butter, melted

2 tablespoons sugar

1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

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

Millie Conger, Tecumseh:

“Good with muffins, biscuits, etc.”

APPLE CINNAMON BUTTER

2 ounces dried apples

1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

1 tablespoon brown sugar

1/2 cup butter

Mix all ingredients with a mixer until combined.

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Joyce Jandera, Hanover: "I call these rolls the miracle dough rolls. Are very good and can be made early in the morning of the day you want to serve them. I've only heard good reports after people try this recipe. One lady even sent me a copy of her church cookbook, she was so pleased with the recipe. Good eating."

ONE-HOUR**DINNER ROLLS**

2 packages yeast, dissolved in
1/4 cup warm water
1 1/2 cups warm buttermilk
1 egg

1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon soda
3 tablespoons sugar
4 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

Mix all ingredients well. Place in a large plastic zip-top bag for 10 minutes. Remove dough from bag and form into dinner rolls or can also be made into cinnamon rolls, your choice. Place rolls in a 9-by-13-inch pan, let rise 45 to 60 minutes. Bake at 375 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes. Serve.

Kellee Rogers, Topeka:
**SWEET & TANGY
MUSTARD**

14-ounce can sweetened condensed milk

8-ounce jar mustard
2 tablespoons horseradish
2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce

Stir all ingredients together and spoon into an airtight container. Refrigerate up to 3 months. Can divide in small containers and give with a bag of pretzels.

Darlene Thomas, Delphos:
CARAMEL

POPCORN BALLS

2 quarts popped popcorn
3 cups crisp rice cereal
42 caramels
3 tablespoons water
1 cup salted peanuts
1/8 teaspoon salt

Combine popcorn and cereal in a large bowl; set aside. In a heavy saucepan over low heat or in a microwave-safe dish, heat caramels and water until the

caramels are melted. Stir in peanuts and salt; mix well. Pour over popcorn mixture and toss to coat. With buttered hands, shape into 3-inch balls. Reshape if necessary when partially cooled. Yields: 10 popcorn balls.

Shirley Deiser, Kanopolis:
**CRANBERRY
CHIP COOKIES**

1 cup butter, softened
1 cup sugar
2 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 cups semisweet chocolate chips

1 1/2 cups dried cranberries
3/4 cup chopped pecans
1/2 cup English toffee bits

In a large bowl cream butter and sugar. Add eggs and vanilla and mix well. Combine flour, baking powder and salt, gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well. Stir in chocolate chips, cranberries, pecans and tof-

fee bits. Dough will be stiff. Drop by rounded tablespoons 2 inches apart onto ungreased baking sheets. Flatten slightly. Bake at 350 degrees for 11 to 14 minutes. Makes about 6 dozen.

Millie Conger, Tecumseh:
CHOCOLATE POPCORN
(4) 3.2-ounce bags microwave popcorn popped

1 cup butter
2 cups brown sugar
1/2 cup dark corn syrup
1 teaspoon vanilla
1/3 cup cocoa
1/2 teaspoon baking soda

Preheat oven to 250 degrees. Remove any unpopped kernels then place popcorn in large roasting pan. In saucepan melt butter over medium heat. Add brown sugar, corn syrup and vanilla. Bring to a boil and boil stirring occasionally for 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Sift cocoa and baking soda. Add to sugar mixture whisking until combined. Drizzle over pop-

corn, tossing gently to coat. Bake for 30 minutes stirring halfway through. Remove from oven and spread popcorn in a single layer on waxed paper. Cool completely. Store in air-tight containers.

Joyce Jandera, Hanover:
**SUPERMOIST
CORNBREAD**

1 1/2 cups coarse yellow cornmeal
2 tablespoons sugar
3/4 teaspoon baking soda
3/4 teaspoon salt
1 1/4 cups buttermilk
1/2 cup sour cream
2 large eggs
1 stick unsalted butter

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Place butter in a 10-inch cast iron skillet. Put into oven until butter melts, about 5 minutes. In a large bowl whisk cornmeal, sugar, baking soda and salt. In another bowl whisk together butter, milk, sour cream and eggs until well combined. Remove skillet from oven

and swirl butter around to coat pan. Pour excess melted butter into the buttermilk mixture. Make a well in center of dry ingredients and add buttermilk mixture. Stir until just combined then pour batter into hot skillet. Bake until golden brown with a crusty top, about 25 minutes.

Sandy Hill, Eskridge:

SLOW-COOKER**BEEFY TACO SOUP**

1 pound ground beef, browned
15-ounce can stewed tomatoes

15-ounce can kidney beans, drained & rinsed

1 1/4-ounce envelope taco seasoning mix

8-ounce can tomato sauce

Stir together all ingredients and pour into a 3- to 4-quart slow-cooker. Cover and heat on low setting for 6 to 8 hours, stirring occasionally. Serves 4 to 6.

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Winter Ghost

The big pallid bird flew low to the stubbled field, its powerful wingbeats propelling it toward a sharp rise where the land fell away toward the distant Little Blue River. Something about its flight pattern seemed odd, simultaneously more buoyant and erratic, its color the epitome of a wintry dawn. No way, I thought. And in denial craned my head to follow its trajectory, letting off the gas after making sure nobody was behind me. Was that a darker pattern on its back or a trick of the light? Was it—?

A blaring horn lurched my attention back to the road. My car had drifted halfway into the opposite lane, much to the opprobrium of an oncoming driver. But even as I whipped my car back into its rightful lane my brain racked through potential identifying characteristics, none of which clicked. One final look and it was gone.

Male harrier. The wings were too broad, a silent voice said. The tail was too short. The wingbeat didn't match.

"And it wasn't white enough, either," I said aloud. No matter: it's gone.

I groaned. The dirt road past the school paralleled the river before bending toward Waterville, but after the rains it would probably be too muddy to risk. Nevertheless, I pulled into the golf course for a quick reversal and gunned the car in pursuit.

It wasn't the first time I'd engaged in a high speed pursuit of a winter ghost, nor was it my first for Kansas. Years ago I'd traversed the lower counties in a vain and futile search for a snowy owl that had been reported, and here I was at it again. The problem with

avian invasions such as the one currently ongoing is that our overactive minds turn every shrub, every shred of litter and, in the case of snowy owls, every tattered and torn plastic bag into the object of our desire.

By all measures, it's been a bumper year for snowies. They started showing up several weeks ago, first in Butler County and then, well, just about everywhere. In fact, two were reported from Cheyenne Bottoms on the same day, a number that made my head ache. I'd never seen a snowy owl in Kansas and wanted one desperately for my state list, but it seemed that wherever I went my presence was something of an anti-owl deflector (An egregious case happened about 15 years ago when my wife and I drove six hours to Ogallala, Neb., to find what everybody claimed was an "impossible to miss" Ross's Gull. Not only did we miss

the bird, it was never seen again).

Invasions of northern species aren't new, but they are sporadic and, for some species, fairly rare. And while invasions are good news to birders, they're bad news to the birds. Snowies and other birds of the Canadian tundra don't wing it all the way to Kansas to spend the holidays with their extended families, they arrive here half-starved and half-

dead from a collapse of their natural food supply. Indeed, the first snowy to be found this year died of starvation two days later.

Since the invasion began, birders have reported seeing about fifteen owls. They've also reported seeing thousands of plastic bags, plastic cups, milk jugs, and objects-that-look-exactly-like-snowy-owls-but-aren't. My own such specimen was never found, thanks in large part to the greasiness of the road. Nevertheless, every white object in every field I passed on the way to and from work, day after day and week after week, demanded a second look. It got to the point where I didn't want to look, knowing full well that all I'd see is another grocery bag flapping in the wind.

And then, one afternoon

with the sky was smudging toward a deep charcoal nothingness and the horizons closing in, I saw a snowy.

It was luminous, bright against winter-sere fields, a soft rounded shape with one wing outstretched as if mantling its prey. After almost dislocating my vertebrae from rubbernecking, I slammed on the brakes and spewed gravel for a hundred feet. A quick U-turn brought me in line with the owl, which now seemed to have pulled its wing closer to its body. Its breast appeared streaked with fine black markings indicating a male.

Pulse hammering, I fumbled in my messenger bag for the binoculars. A few vehicles whipped past, their unobservant occupants un-

aware of the spectacle right outside their windows. Here was one of the most sought-after birds in the state, and I alone was witness.

The owl's head turned to stare at me as I clapped the bins to my eyes and spun the focus knob. For a long, lingering moment its huge golden eyes burned into mine, and then it magically transformed into a moldering cardboard box.

On the day I write this, two additional owls were sighted. Neither, I might add, by me. My 60-mile commute garnered dozens of white bags, a white fence-post, several bleached tree trunks and a white plastic tub. But I'm not discouraged. I learned long ago that only by seeking do we find, and only through persistence do we succeed.

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USDA revises national nutrient management standard

WASHINGTON – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has revised its national conservation practice standard on nutrient management to help producers better manage the application of nutrients on agricultural land. Proper application of nitrogen and phosphorus offers tremendous benefits to producers and the public, including cost savings to the producer and the protection or improvement of ground and surface water, air quality, soil quality and agricultural sustainability.

"Protecting America's supply of clean and abundant water is an important objective for USDA," Vilsack said. "This precious resource is the foundation for healthy ecosystems and sustainable agricultural production. USDA provides voluntary technical and financial assistance to help producers manage their nutrients to ensure a clean and abundant water supply while maintaining viable farm and ranch operations."

The nutrient management conservation practice is an important tool in the

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation toolbox. The agency's staff uses this conservation practice to help farmers and ranchers apply their nutrients more efficiently. Proper management of nitrogen and phosphorus, including the use of organic sources of nitrogen such as animal manure, legumes and cover crops, can save producers money. The nutrient management standard provides a roadmap for NRCS's staff and others to help producers apply available nutrient sources in the right amount, from the right source, in the right place, at the right time for maximum agricultural and environmental benefits.

NRCS's nutrient management experts worked with universities, non-government organizations, industry and others to revise the standard to ensure it is scientifically sound. Key changes in the standard include expanding the use of technology to streamline the nutrient management process and allowing states more flexibility in providing site-specific nutrient management planning using local information when working with

producers. NRCS staff offices will have until Jan. 1, 2013 to comply with erosion, nitrogen and phosphorus criteria for their state nutrient management standard.

The revised national standard is being released at a time when the agency is working with various partners to address nutrient management concerns identified in three recently released Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) cropland studies. These CEAP studies assessed the effectiveness of conservation practices in the Upper Mississippi Basin, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and the Great Lakes Basin. One significant resource concern identified in all three studies is the loss of nitrogen and phosphorus from cropland. Most nitrogen losses are attributed to nitrate leaching through the soil to groundwater. Most phosphorus is lost due to erosion because phosphorus attaches itself to displaced soil particles that are transported by runoff to nearby waterways. Improved nutrient management and effective erosion control work together to reduce the loss of nutrients from agricultural land, resulting in improved water quality in downstream rural and urban communities. The revised standard will provide tools and

strategies to help producers address the natural resource concerns relating to excess nutrients on agricultural land. NRCS offers voluntary technical and financial assistance to producers nationwide for planning and implementing on-farm nutrient management plans. Producers can use this assistance to help meet federal, state, tribal and local environmental regulations. For more information about how nutrient management fits into NRCS's conservation work, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/land_use/crops/npm.

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The Back Cinch

It's not always a surprise when a horse goes to bucking. Sometimes you get a hint that something's about to happen. Maybe you can feel nervousness or tenseness in his movements. If he's jumpy and doesn't act in his normal demeanor, you better get ready for some unusual behavior. At least you're getting a warning that your horse could start bucking and you can prepare yourself for more than just a normal ride.

The horses that don't let on they're unhappy or irritated are the ones that can hurt you. If you don't have a clue something's going to explode, you won't be ready when it happens. If you know it's coming, you can get a grip on your night latch, if you have one, or sit down in the saddle with maybe your thighs up against the swells. Last, but not least, there's always the saddle horn. Gripping the horn may not do much good on a hard-bucking horse but

it always makes a rider feel a little more confident when they have a choke hold on that nubbin. I'll wager that a lot of honest-to-goodness bronc riders have been dumped on the ground by horses that surprised them. I'll even wager more and bet that if they knew the horse was gonna buck and they were ready for the action, they wouldn't have gotten thrown.

I've got a cutting horse I'm pretty proud of. He never bucked, not even once, when I started him. After he was trained, I took him to a cutting and paid my entry fee. An hour before my class was to start, I took him out of his stall, brushed him down and saddled him up. I threw my good cutting saddle on him and buckled up the rear cinch. I had time to warm him up before we entered the show pen. I led him out of the barn to the parking lot near the round pen. I wanted to use that round pen to lope him until

I figured everything was loosened up with his muscles. The parking area was hard packed sand. The sand was as hard as concrete. I used my cutting saddle the day before on another horse that I liked to ride with a rear cinch. I never use the rear cinch when I train a horse because it seems to get in the way with your spurs when you're trying to teach a young horse something new. Billy, the horse I was getting ready to ride in the cutting, was a young horse. This was the first time I was going to show him. I had never ridden him with a rear cinch on my saddle and didn't even think about the fact that this was the first time he'd feel a rear cinch under his belly. I put my boot in the left stirrup, stepped up and sat in the saddle. I was fishing for the right stirrup when Billy felt that rear cinch and thought it was going to bite him. I didn't have my right boot in the stirrup yet when he exploded like he had been bit by a hornet or a wildcat.

He started bucking really hard in a left-hand circle. I was frantically trying to spear that right stirrup but there was no way I could find it because it was flopping all over the place. My reins were caught behind the saddle horn and between trying to get my foot

in the flying stirrup and the reins loose from the horn, I was going to Hades in a hurry. In fact, I was losing the contest. I was worried that with the reins locked tight behind the horn, because Billy had his head buried between his legs, and the death grip I had on them, I could be in danger. If his head came up, it was possible that I would pull him over on top of me if I didn't get the reins worked loose from around the horn. Billy wasn't worried about any of those things. He was too busy bucking as hard as he could in that circle.

So, I was dealing with a multitude of problems. Between the reins, the missing stirrup, a hard-bucking horse and the centrifugal force of the left-handed bucking circle trying to throw me off the right hand side where I had no stirrup to support myself; it was a safe bet I was going to get a flying lesson.

I managed to get the reins clear of the horn and that's when my ride turned a lot worse. When the reins came loose, Billy had enough slack to really get his head down and show me how good he could buck when he was turned loose. He sent me sailing. I landed on my back on the hard-packed sand that felt like concrete. Billy bucked around a few more times

and figured out that rear cinch wasn't going to eat him so he quit bucking and headed off to the barn in a nice smooth trot. When I got up, I found a broken rein he stepped on while he was on his way to the barn to visit with the horses that had their heads sticking out the stalls watching him give me a flying lesson.

He went from stall to stall touching noses with the spectators as if he was high-fiving with them for his performance. When I caught him, I fixed the rein and then put him in the round pen. When I got back on him, I was ready for him to buck again. He let me down. He

acted like a well-trained horse and didn't try any more nonsense. That episode was my fault because I had never introduced that back cinch to him before I took him to the show grounds. It was a good lesson for me. Besides going home with three broken ribs from that hard-packed sand; I learned to put a back cinch on all the young horses in the round pen before I climb on their back so I wouldn't give them an excuse to blow up when I don't expect it.

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December 30 — Inventory reduction, tractors, combines, corn heads, flex platforms, planters, tillage equip., field cultivators & misc. at Mason City, Iowa and online (www.gehlinglive.com) for Red Power Team. Auctioneers: Gehling Auction.

December 31 — Harley Gerdes 27th annual New Year's Consignment auction at Lyndon.

January 4, 2012 — Pawnee County, Nebraska real estate land at Pawnee City, Neb. for Emaleen Rogers. Auctioneers: Speckmann Realty & Auction Service, Inc.

January 6 — 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 7 — Chevy pickup, riding mower, mini tiller, tools, firearms, angels, Occupied Japan, jewelry, antique glass & porcelain, furniture, household, go kart at Abilene for Melvin "Bud" & Greta Wilkins Estate. Auctioneers: Mugler, Reynolds & Geist.

January 7 — Furniture, appliances, glassware, collectibles, tools & misc. at Junction City for Margerta Goodin. Auctioneers: Brown Real Estate & Auction Service, LLC.

January 7 — Tractors, machinery, crop head, hay equip., grain cart, trailers, vehicles, skid loader attach. & misc. at Liberty, Neb. for Christopher J. Sedlacek Estate. Auctioneers: Jurgens, Henrichs, Hardin.

January 8 — Estate auction at Lawrence for Donna Biggerstaff Living Estate. Auctioneers: Elston Auctions.

January 11 — Tractors, combine, harvest equip., trucks, vehicles, trailers, planting, fertilizer, chemical equip., excavator, skidsteer, ATVs, recreation vehicles online

(www.bigiron.com). Auctioneers: Stock Auction Co.

January 14 — Land near Topeka (Silver Lake) at Topeka. Auctioneers: Hawks Real Estate Professionals/Kooser Auction Service.

January 14 — Coins, jewelry, swords, van, tools, antiques at Osage City for Archie Larison. Auctioneers: Beatty & Wischropp Auctions.

January 14 & 21 — Oak furniture, deer mounts, lamps, paintings, coins, collector model cars, golf cart, mobility carts, tires, tools, appliances at Beloit for Lone Von Brammer Estate. Auctioneers: Gerald Zimmer Auction & Real Estate.

January 16 — Real estate at Osage City for Rita Bartee. Auctioneers: Miller & Midyett Real Estate, Wayne Wischropp, auctioneer.

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

January 18 — Douglas County land at Lawrence. Auctioneers: Farmers National Company.

January 18 — Russell County real estate at Lucas for William A. Patton. Auctioneers: Farmland Auction & Realty Co., Inc.

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

January 21 — Farm items, truck, tractor, JD Gator, collectibles at Lawrence for Robert & Clara McKeehan. Auctioneers: Elston Auctions.

January 23 — Prime native grass acreage N. of St. Marys for Louise A. Ronse Davis Trust. Auctioneers: Miller & Midyett Real Estate, Ed Dewey, auctioneer.

January 26 — Dickinson County land at Abilene for Howard E. Lang Trust.

Auctioneers: Yocum Real & Auction Service, Gary Yocum broker/auctioneer.

January 28 — Toy & guns at Osage City. Auctioneers: Elston Auctions.

February 2 — Dickinson County cropland at Abilene for Scanlan Farms, Inc. Auctioneers: Omli & Associates, Inc.

February 5 — Auction at Lawrence. Auctioneers: Elston Auctions.

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

February 28 — Hereford & Angus bull & female sale at Manhattan for Mill Creek 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.

March 24 — Estate auction at Carbondale for Charles & Lila Sheperd Estate. Auctioneers: Elston Auctions.

March 24 — Farm sale, machinery, guns, tools & misc. SE of Aurora for Glen & Gary Gutka. Auctioneers: Larry Lagasse Auction & Real Estate.

March 31 — Farm sale S. of Miltonvale for Jim & Linda Trahan. Auctioneers: Larry Lagasse Auction & Real Estate.

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President Carter's reign was called the time of malaise, defined as a feeling of discomfort. Present times might be described as a time of anxiety. Still hopeful, but with very little trust in the people we put in office.

The recession has hit everybody and each of us has to find a way to get through it. We cannot let the niggling dread of what our well-meaning but inept government has wrought bring us down. I'm guessing that there is a segment of our

population that doesn't worry about our economic condition much. They are on both ends of the spectrum; those who live on a private or government pension, or welfare, who pay little or no taxes, and have no doubt the next check is coming... AND:

Those who have money in the bank from inheritance or private investment, pay two-thirds of all the country's income tax, and are confident they can ride it out.

Then there are others. Most of us I think. Those who have taken two jobs, moved into a smaller house, laid off employees with regret, lent support to our friends and relatives, pay the rest of the income taxes, and keep listening to CNN to see when the next shoe will fall.

To you who have never quit trying, I offer a short list. It has helped me keep pointed in the right direction. I have never been a man who made goals. That sounds funny from a fellow who can tell you where he will be entertaining next February 24, or May 5th. I pretty much live from today to my next performance road trip. In the meantime I have cows to check, calls to return, things to fix, church, friends to visit, family, and routine responsibilities.

In my travels over the years I get to see my friends.

They often say, "We should get together more often." But, to me, I DO get to see and visit most of them every year or two. That's a lot considering the distance between our homes. I can't imagine ever "retiring," as if this is a real job! During this recession many of us are being forced to face reality, the possibility of life-changing upheavals, and a cloudy future. Personally, all my responsibilities seem to be swirling and spinning in my mind like puzzles on Wheel of Fortune™. They keep popping up like brush fires which need tending immediately. You put it out and another one flares up!

I have given some thought about what is important to me to be able to survive the turmoil that roils around us. What I can personally do that will make a difference... while our leaders fiddle as Washington D.C. burns:

KEEP THE FAITH
DO GOOD WORKS
KEEP YOUR
SHOULDER TO THE
WHEEL
STAY IN TOUCH WITH
THOSE YOU CARE ABOUT
LISTEN... FIRST
BE THANKFUL FOR
EACH DAY
And if that don't work, I'll go back to the drawing board 'cause I've got a lot of chalk.

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Model	Engine	Displacement	Horsepower	Transmission
6465	Perkins 1106D	6.6 L (402 cu. in.)	100 PTO hp (74.5 kW)	Dyna-6
6475	Perkins 1106D	6.6 L (402 cu. in.)	110 PTO hp (82.0 kW)	Dyna-6
6480	Perkins 1106D	6.6 L (402 cu. in.)	120 PTO hp (89.5 kW)	Dyna-6
6485	SauDiesel 66 CTA	6.6 L (402 cu. in.)	130 PTO hp (96.9 kW)	Dyna-6
6490	SauDiesel 66 CTA	6.6 L (402 cu. in.)	140 PTO hp (108.1 kW)	Dyna-6
6495	SauDiesel 66 CTA	6.6 L (402 cu. in.)	155 PTO hp (115.6 kW)	Dyna-6
6497	SauDiesel 74 CTA	7.4 L (451 cu. in.)	165 PTO hp (123.0 kW)	Dyna-6
6499	SauDiesel 74 CTA	7.4 L (451 cu. in.)	180 PTO hp (134.0 kW)	Dyna-6

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