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Settling the dust — lessons learned from the Dust Bowl

By Dee Ann Littlefield, USDA-NRCS

"You couldn't see. You couldn't breathe. You couldn't go outside for days," remembers Eugene Littlefield. "It was awful."

Littlefield is referring to the giant black clouds of soil that would blot out the sun and swallow the countryside. Born in Wayside, Texas in 1934, Littlefield was welcomed into the world by the Dust Bowl – an era in the 1930s when the most massive, brutal dust storms ever known to our nation repeatedly ravaged the Panhandle and Great Plains regions.

Littlefield was the only child of parents that raised cattle, wheat and sorghum on their farm 20 miles east of Happy, in the now-extinct community of Wayside.

"We could see those storms coming over the horizon," he says. "The dirt would blow in your face and hit your skin so hard it hurt. Dad would get our animals in the best shelter he could, while my mom started packing the windows with rolled wet towels and hung sheets to try to keep dirt out.

"It still didn't work," he says, shaking his head at the fury and intensity of the storms. "Fine sand would get in our food no matter how well we protected it. It would get behind the wallpaper in our house. Our white sheets on the bed would turn brown.

"Mother would light kerosene lamps and you could barely see them for the brown haze around them," he adds.

He recounts his family having to use a bucket for the bathroom because they couldn't go outside to the outhouse. His dad had a rope tied from the house to the barn so if there was even the slightest reprieve in the raging storm he could go check on the animals. Littlefield says no matter how hard you tried to protect your equipment or vehicles, the fine sand would penetrate the carburetors and wind up in fuel lines, rendering equipment inoperable until it could be repaired.

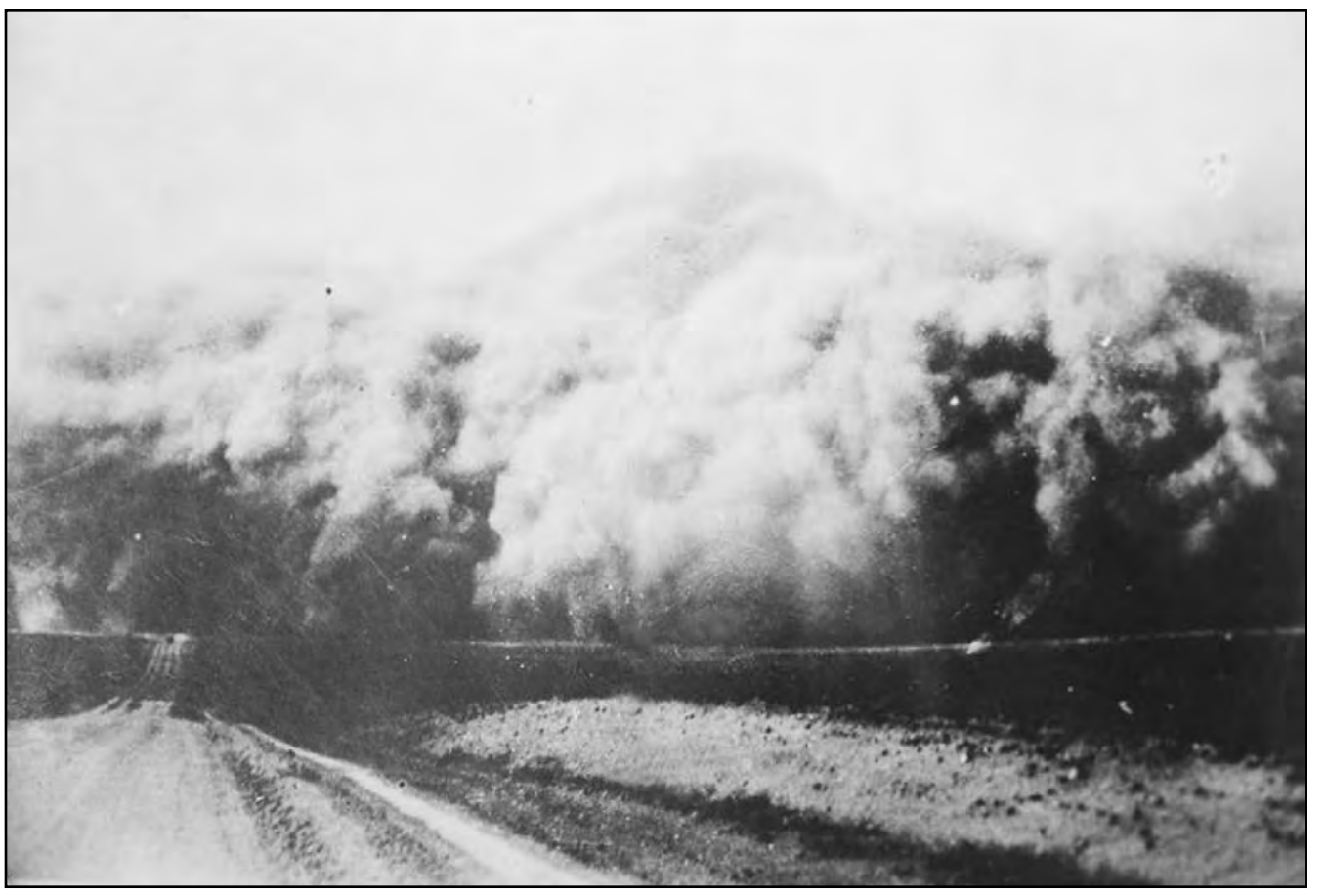
"I remember coming outside after the storms and you couldn't find things," he says."You could see, but you still felt disoriented because the landscape would look so different. Tumbleweeds would blow against the fences and get trapped, then the dirt would just pile up in them to the point it would bury the fence so deep in dirt you couldn't see it. Entire plows could get buried and only the levers would be visible."

The plowing up of native grasslands across the Great Plains left vast stretches of soil exposed to drought and wind. The 1930s mark a decade of the worst drought in U.S. history. Planted seeds would shrivel and die in the ground before they could ever sprout. With no plants to trap the soil or moisture, the parched dirt turned to powder that was easily carried away by wind.

This loss of land and crops only further deepened the effects of the Great Depression, to the point that by 1933 more than 11,000 of the nation's 25,000 banks had failed and unemployment was at a record high 25 percent.

The Dust Bowl affected 100,000,000 acres, centered on the panhandles of Texas and Oklahoma, and adjacent parts of New Mexico, Colorado, and Kansas. In December 1935, experts estimated that 850 million tons of topsoil had been blown off the Plains that year alone. The drought would linger four more years until rain finally brought relief in the fall of 1941.

Hard work preparing the land and planting the crops, was met with years and years of crop failure. With no crops to harvest and no grass for livestock to eat on their Swisher County farm, the Littlefields struggled along with so many, just desperate to survive.



A dust storm rolls across the Littlefield Farm in Swisher County, Texas in 1935. Photo taken at intersection of FM 1075 and 2301.

Photo courtesy of Littlefield Family Album

"We were excited when my dad got a job with the Civilian Conservation Corps to help build a road across Palo Duro Canyon," Littlefield remembers. "But when they found out he was selling milk from our milk cow to the neighbors, they considered that a job and let him go so they could hire someone else that was unemployed."

During this time there was one man that was strongly convinced he had a plan to keep so much of America's top soil from blowing away.

In 1928, while working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a chemist with the Bureau of Soils, Hugh Hammond Bennett wrote about the ongoing soil erosion issue in a government report.

"To visualize the full enormity of land impairment and devastation brought about by this ruthless agent is beyond the possibility of the mind. An era of land wreckage destined to weigh heavily upon the welfare of the next generation is at hand," he wrote.

Through his experience with soil surveys, Bennett realized the effects of soil erosion and the negative impacts it had on agriculture. His persistent admonition about the devastation of farmland that was occurring across the nation's landscape led Congress to establish the USDA's Soil Conservation Service (SCS), now known as Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The establishment of the SCS marked the beginning of federal funding and natural resource education to landowners, especially farmers. States established state soil conservation agencies and procedures whereby local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) could be formed in counties across the U.S. SCS assistance was delivered at the direction of the local SWCD board, made up of five landowners from across the county.

The agency employees would hold workshops and in some cases go door-to-door to educate farmers on soil conservation and anti-erosion techniques, including crop rotation, strip farming, contour plowing, terracing and other beneficial farming practices. The agency provided financial incentives to help farmers offset the costs of adopting some of these practices.

Littlefield remembers the local SWCD presenting a film about soil erosion at his Wayside Grade School.

"I remember the conservation service men coming by to teach us how to put nutrients back in the soil by rotating our crops," Littlefield says. "We planted rows of trees, a shelterbelt, to act as a windbreak for our fields. We started terracing our fields to hold the water better. It made a big difference."

The land care lessons his family and others received in the 1930s paid off in the 1950s when another historic drought had America's farmland in its grip.

"The SCS helped us know how to take care of our land, even in hard times," Littlefield says. "They taught us about strip till farming and the equipment we needed to have to farm in better ways. I really feel like the Graham-Hoeme chisel plow saved this country from blowing completely away."

The plow featured reversible chisel points that were used for erosion control and primary tillage. Special "low-crown" 16-inch-wide sweeps were developed for shallow weed control before planting. The sweeps left about three-quarters of the stubble covering the soil surface, reducing the soil dryness and preventing wind erosion. This was one of the first tools available to perform "stubble-mulch" throughout the Great Plains.

Littlefield still owns farm land in Swisher County. As an impressionable young child, experiencing firsthand the largest man-made ecological disaster our nation has ever seen made a lasting impression on Littlefield. He wants to do everything he can to save the soil on his land. He enrolled his farm land, most of it with highly erodible soil, in the USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Participating as a SWCD cooperator, he

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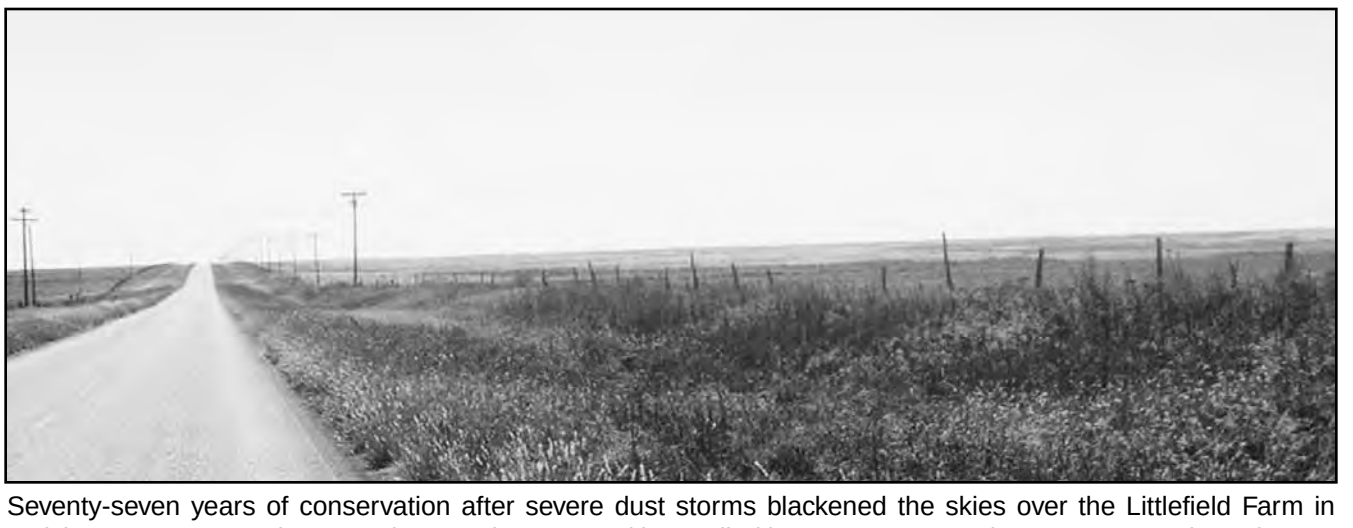
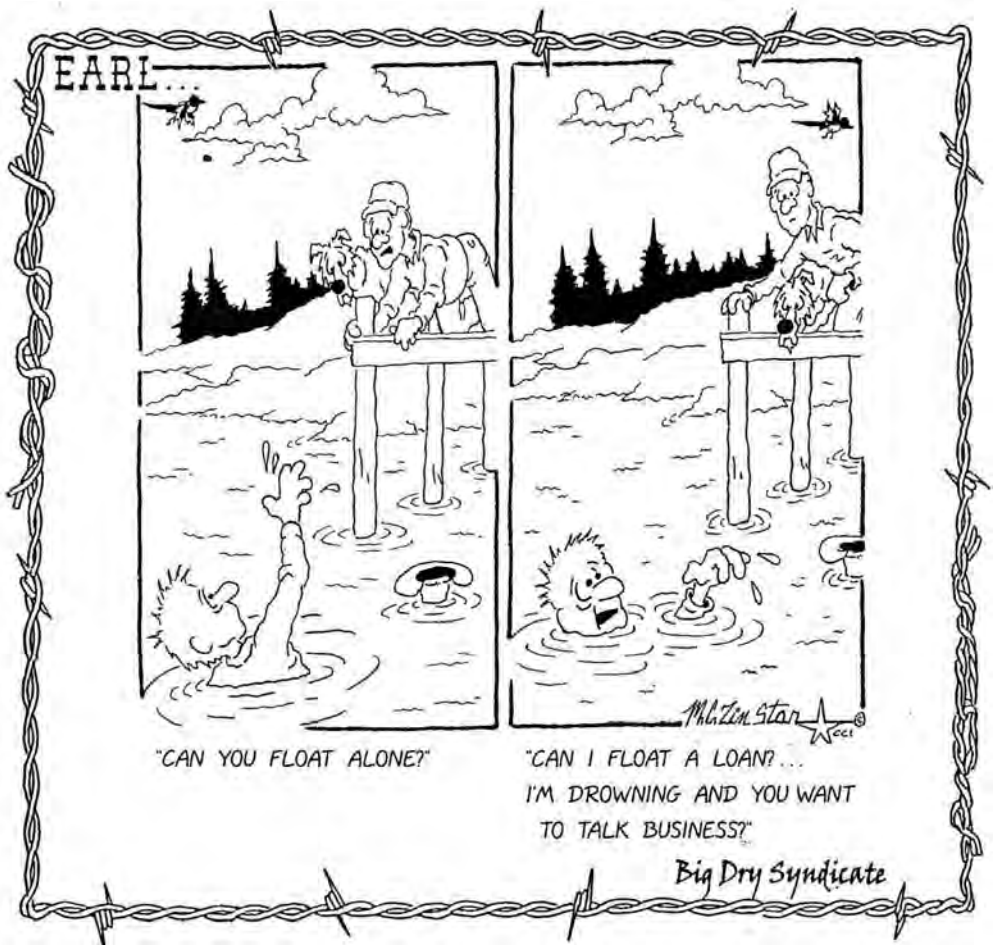


Seventy-seven years of conservation after severe dust storms blackened the skies over the Littlefield Farm in Swisher County, Texas in 1935. The once bare ground is enrolled in USDA conservation programs and now boasts thick grass stands. Photo taken at intersection of FM 1075 and 2301. The photo was taken in 2012 at same place as Dust Bowl photo taken in 1935.



Wow, 2013 already, guess I am going to have to break out the new calendar. I am not sure I am ready for the New Year yet. Although I am sure that I will hang on to 2012 a little while longer, at least that is what my checks will say. I have to admit, 2012 was kind of a rough year in some ways, but it will always go down as one of the best years of my life.

Okay, so how could a year that was over 11 inches short of rainfall go down as one of the best in my life? How could a year with no snow, dry ponds, short pastures and a blistering summer go down as a good year? Well, I guess it is all according to your perspective. I know this was not a great year for crops or livestock alike, the drought shows no sign of breaking and things might look kind of bleak. Not from where I am standing.

One thing that I have noticed about us "ag types" is that we live with the undying confidence that no matter how bad this year was, next year will be better. I look into next year knowing that the weather I am facing is no different than some of the years my father, grandfather, great-grandfather and great, great-grandfather have faced. It gives me hope to know that they made it through those years and the weather eventually chang-ed. Maybe 2013 will be that year.

I also go forth into the New Year with the knowledge that because of the improved crop genetics and better farming methods, we will most likely raise a crop. It was not that many years ago that we would not have harvested any crops in a year like 2012. We go into 2013 knowing that crop genetics are even better and we can raise more grain with less water.

Most of all I go into 2013 knowing that I will be doing what I have always wanted to do and that knowledge is what made 2012 one of the best years of my life. I was blessed enough to be able to farm and ranch full-time. Each morning I woke up knowing that I was following my dream. I left the house each day to take part in my chosen occupation, one that is really a way of life.

I went to work each morning breathing clean air, looking out on the Flint Hills and working with my family. I was farming land that my family had farmed for over 100 years. From calving, lambing and planting in the spring, to haying in the summer and weaning and harvest in the fall, each day was a great one. I can't imagine a better way to spend a year of my life.

So here I am looking at 2013 with the knowledge that I will get to be employed doing something I have a passion for. My wish for each of you would be to find your passion and make that what you do to earn a living. If you do that, your life will be more rewarding, I speak from experience. Life is too short to not be happy.

What does 2013 bring? Who knows? Will it rain? The professionals say we have equal chances of floods or droughts. However, in the words of a wise old man, "there is nothing we can do about it, so why worry?. I do know that there will be many challenges, some really good days and a few not so good days. I know there will be plans that come together and things that work right, I also know that other things will not go as planned.

I truly hope 2013 brings rain, great yields, high prices, big calves and tall grass, but if it doesn't that will be okay, too. I know that next December I will still be here and still have the hope that the next year will be better. Those of us in agriculture live with an eternal optimism that keeps us planting crops and raising livestock each year.

I hope that 2013 will be a good year for each of you. I hope you find peace and happiness. I hope you are surrounded by family and friends. I was blessed enough to find all of these this past year. That, my friends, was why 2012 was one of the best years of my life and why I am so hopeful for 2013.

Insight
KANSAS FARM BUREAU
The Voice of Agriculture

Silence is Golden

By John Schlageck, Kansas Farm Bureau

Today, information bombards us like a meteor shower. It's everywhere.

Each day our eyes see thousands of images on television and computer screens. Our ears hear thousands of words. Many people read thousands of words on the printed page.

People text and talk. They Facebook and walk. They Twitter and tweet. They blog and beep. They Bluetooth – didn't know that was even a word until a few years ago. One thing I do know, it shouldn't be a verb.

Folks who can't speak or write our own English language are making up their own version daily, but that's a whole 'nother story.

Does anyone listen anymore?

Listening and reading. Wise men and women throughout history have told us we ought to be doing more of this. Give your eyes a rest from the video world every now and then.

Guess what?

Every day I scan approximately a half dozen newspapers online. I even pick up a copy of the Kansas City Star and hold the "real thing" in my mitts nearly every Sunday.

And books both in paper, hardback and my Nook, I can't begin to think of how many I've read during the last 50 years. I read every day and sometimes I have two or three books going at the same time.

One of my favorite authors, Leo Tolstoy (War and Peace and Anna Karenina) used to choose a theme and offer a wise thought for each day of the year. He coupled this with quotes from some of the greatest philosophers of all times.

Here are a few of the thoughts on which Tolstoy reflected. Most have to do with listening.

After a long conversation, stop and try to remember what you have just discussed. Don't be surprised if many things, sometimes all things you discuss, are meaningless, empty and trivial.

A stupid person should keep silent. But if he knew this, he would not be a stupid person. —Saadi.

If you want to be a clever person, you have to learn how to ask cleverly, how to listen attentively, how to respond quietly and how to stop talking when there is nothing more to say.

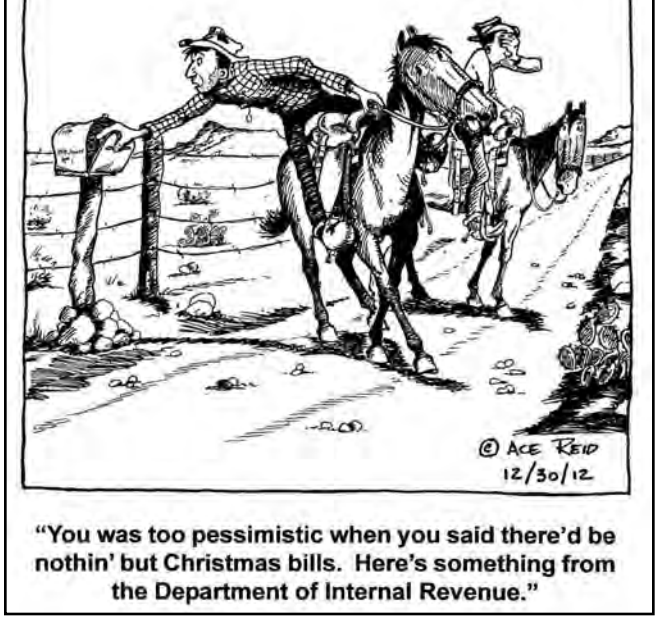
People whose only motivation is to say something original utter many stupid things. —Voltaire.

If you have time to think before you start talking, think.

Will what I have to say harm anyone?

Is it necessary to speak?

Nothing can support idleness better than empty



"You was too pessimistic when you said there'd be nothin' but Christmas bills. Here's something from the Department of Internal Revenue."

Prairie Ponderings

By Donna Sullivan

My 19-year-old niece from Colorado came to live in Kansas last Labor Day weekend. She lives with my younger son and his family, but frequently spends time at my house. Upon learning that I write a weekly column she asked, "Oh, will you write about me sometimes so I can be in it?"

My youngest daughter was listening and looked at her like she had suddenly sprouted a second head.

"Are you crazy?" she asked incredulously. "We've all spent our whole lives trying to stay OUT of her columns!"

Obviously, they didn't try very hard. I mean, seriously, if they'd have just sat in the corner with their hands in their laps like good little kids, they wouldn't have provided nearly as much material for me to write about. But I digress.

I assured my niece that at some point, she would do something that would land her in one of my columns.

"Really," my daughter confirmed, "Everyone she knows is fair game. No one is safe."

Despite growing up in Denver, my niece says that she's really a country girl at heart. Shortly after moving here, she started dating a country boy. His first gift to her was a bucket calf. She was elated. She's come very quickly to understand that chores are a priority, even if it means leaving a family gathering earlier than she'd planned. The animals have to be fed. Her delight at the aspects of country living that the rest of sometimes take for granted, have refreshed our own appreciation of them. When she talks about feeding her bucket calf, my daughter remembers fondly the time she and her dad fed 25 bottle calves before she went to school each day and again each evening. The memories of dark, cold mornings pale in comparison to the warm breath of the calves on her hands as she held the bottles and their soft coats as she petted each one.

With her youthful enthusiasm for everything she does, from checking calves with her boyfriend or my oldest son, to building fence with my younger son, my niece is relishing country life and all its beauty, challenges and rewards. And along the way, she's reminded the rest of us why we chose this life and how blessed we are to call it our own.

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785-539-7558
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Editor — Donna Sullivan
gandgeditor@agpress.com

— Advertising Staff —
Steve Reichert • steve@agpress.com
agpress2@agpress.com

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chatter. People would do better to keep silent rather than speak the boring, empty things they routinely say to entertain themselves.

First think, then speak. Stop when told, "enough." —-Saadi.

Those people speak most who do not have much to say.

People are taught to speak, but their major concern should be how to keep silent.

I have spent all my life amongst wise people, and I have found nothing better than silence in this world. If a word costs one coin, then silence costs two. —-Talmud.

Keep silent. Rest your tongue more often than you do your hands. You will never regret that you have kept silent, but you will often regret that you spoke too much.

Do not say words you do not feel, lest your soul be blackened with darkness. —-The Book of Divine Thoughts.

Silence is golden. Listen.

John Schlageck is a leading commentator on agriculture and rural Kansas. Born and raised on a diversified farm in northwestern Kansas, his writing reflects a lifetime of experience, knowledge and passion

White Star Machinery relocates Manhattan location

White Star Machinery, one of five White Star Machinery dealerships in Kansas and Oklahoma, has moved their Manhattan location to 3695 Green Valley Parkway in Manhattan.

Berry Companies, based in Wichita, has been in the construction equipment distribution industry since 1957. Berry Companies has grown to 22 Bobcat locations in six states: White Star Machinery (based in Wichita; Bobcat of the Rockies (based in Golden, Colo.); KC Bobcat (based in Blue Springs Mo.); and Bobcat of Houston (based in Jersey Village, Texas), and Bobcat of Dallas.

Berry Companies also owns and operates: Berry Tractor & Equipment with four locations which represents Komatsu, Bomag, Gomaco and Terex in Kansas and southwestern Missouri; Berry Material Handling with four locations, which represents Yale lift trucks in Kansas; and Superior Broom, which manufacturers self-propelled brooms primarily for the asphalt paving market.

More information on Berry Companies, Inc. and its divisions can be found on the web site at: www.berrycompaniesinc.com.

Settling the dust

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worked with the NRCS to develop a conservation plan and proper management for his CRP.

When his CRP contract expired in 2011, Littlefield immediately enrolled it in the USDA's State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) program, administered by FSA, with NRCS providing technical assistance and conservation planning advice. In the SAFE program, Littlefield relies on NRCS to help him remove the existing introduced bluestem grass to prepare the acres for planting native plants to improve wildlife habitat for such threatened and endangered candidate species as the Lesser Prairie Chicken.

"Seeing what I saw growing up as a boy on our farm, I have witnessed the positive effects over 70 years of conservation efforts have had on our land," Littlefield says. "I am now proud to say I am a landowner that is making a difference for the environment, and in the process, I hope to be able to help the prairie chicken populations."

Bennett, known as the Father of Conservation, perhaps said it best: "Farmers have only temporary control over their land. It can be theirs for a lifetime and no longer. The public's interest, however, goes on and on, endlessly, if nations are to endure...."

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Our Daily Bread

By G&G Area Cooks

First Contest Winner Of 2013 Is Ethel Baumgartner Of Sabetha

Winner Ethel Baumgartner, Sabetha:
HAM QUESADILLAS

2 cups shaved ham
8-ounce can corn, drained (or 1 cup frozen corn)
2 teaspoons chili powder
2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese
8 flour tortillas

In a large bowl toss ham, corn, chili powder and cheese. Heat 10-inch nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Place one flour tortilla in skillet; layer with about 1/2 cup of the ham mixture to within 1/2-inch of edge of tortilla. Top with another tortilla. Cook over medium-high heat for 4 to 5 minutes, turning after 2 minutes until light golden brown. Remove quesadilla from skillet and keep warm. Repeat with remaining tortillas and filling. Cut quesadillas into wedges to serve. Serves 4 to 5.

*****

Kellee Rogers, Topeka:
SAUCY SLOW COOKER PARTY WINGS

3 pounds chicken wings, split at joints, tips removed
1 cup barbecue sauce
1/4 cup orange juice
2 tablespoons honey

Heat oven to 400 degrees. Place chicken in foil-lined jelly roll pan. Bake 30 minutes. Transfer chicken to slow cooker, discard drippings. Mix remaining ingredients. Pour over chicken, stir to evenly coat. Cover with lid. Cook on low 5-6 hours or on high 2 1/2 to 3 hours.

*****

Joyce Maginness, Fostoria:
PUMPKIN CHEESECAKE PIE

(2) 8-ounce packages cream
2/3 cup sugar
2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
2 eggs
15-ounce can pumpkin
9-inch graham cracker pie crust

Beat cream cheese in large bowl until fluffy. Add sugar and spice. Add eggs one at a time, mixing until just combined after each. Stir in pumpkin. Pour into pie crust (purchased or make your own). Bake at 350 degrees for 35 to 40 minutes or until center is almost set. Cool at least one hour on rack. Refrigerate, garnish as desired.

*****

Marian Pfrang, Goff:
DIFFERENT PECAN PIE

1 cup white sugar
2 cups brown sugar, not packed
4 eggs
2 heaping tablespoons flour
2 tablespoons milk
1 stick oleo, melted
1 teaspoon vanilla
1/8 teaspoon maple flavoring
1/8 teaspoon almond flavoring
1 cup pecans
Unbaked pie shell

Mix all pie filling ingredients together and pour into an unbaked pie shell. Bake in a 350-degree oven for 60 to 65 minutes.

*****

Gale Rathbun, Webber:
HAWAIIAN CHICKEN

3 lbs. skinless chicken breast
20-ounce can pineapple tidbits, drained
1/2 cup butter
1/2 cup packed brown sugar
2/3 cup ketchup
1/2 cup vinegar
2 teaspoons cornstarch
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
1 tablespoon soy sauce

Blend together vinegar and cornstarch in medium saucepan. Stir in all other ingredients except chicken. Cook over medium heat until thick. Place chicken in lightly greased casserole dish and pour sauce over. Bake uncovered at 325 degrees for 1 1/2 to 2 hours. Serve with warm cooked rice.

*****

Sabra Shirrell, Tecumseh:
DIFFERENT CHILI

10 oz. uncooked spaghetti
1 tablespoon oil
1 pound ground beef
1/2 cup chopped onion
1 clove garlic, finely chopped
26- to 28-ounce jar chunky vegetable-style tomato pasta sauce
1 can kidney beans, rinsed & drained
1 tablespoon chili powder
1/2 cup Cheddar cheese, shredded
3 medium green onions, sliced

Cook and drain spaghetti as directed on package. Heat oil in 10-inch skillet over medium heat. Cook beef, chopped onion and garlic in oil 5-6 minutes stirring occasionally until beef is no longer pink. Stir in pasta sauce, beans and chili powder, reduce heat. Simmer uncovered 10 minutes stirring occasionally. Serve over spaghetti. Sprinkle with cheese and green onions.

*****

Shirley Deiser, Kanopolis:
CHICKEN SOUR CREAM BAKE

6 chicken breast halves, skinned, boned & halved again (if too large to be wrapped in beef slices)
4-ounce jar chipped beef rinsed in boiling water & drained
12 slices bacon
2 cups sour cream
10 3/4-ounce can cream of asparagus or cream of mushroom soup
Paprika

Wrap each breast section in slice of chipped beef, then wrap with bacon. Mix sour cream and soup. Place chicken in greased casserole and pour soup mixture over it. Sprinkle with paprika to taste. Bake at 325 degrees for 2 hours.

*****

Millie Conger, Tecumseh:
BROCCOLI POTATO SOUP

1/4 cup butter
1 onion, chopped
1/3 cup flour
(2) 32-ounce cartons chicken broth
2 cups milk
2 pounds red potatoes, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
2 cups chopped broccoli florets
1 teaspoon dried thyme
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper
8-ounce package shredded sharp Cheddar cheese
1/2 cup sour cream

In large Dutch oven, melt butter over medium heat. Add onion and cook, stirring frequently for 5 minutes. Add flour, cook, stirring constantly for 2 minutes. Gradually stir in broth and milk, stirring until smooth. Stir in potatoes and next 4 ingredients. Bring to a boil over medium heat, reduce heat and simmer stirring occasionally for 15-20 minutes or until mixture thickens, and potatoes are tender. Add cheese and sour cream, stirring until cheese melts.

*****

Lydia Miller, Westphalia:
"No pan to wash! A no-fuss side dish to go with burgers or steaks."
HOBO POTATOES

Nonstick cooking spray
1/2 cup chopped onion
3 slices bacon, coarsely chopped
1 cup (4 ounces) shredded Cheddar cheese
4 cups 1/4-inch thick sliced potatoes
1/4 cup chopped green sweet pepper
1/4 teaspoon seasoned salt
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper

Fold 36-by-18-inch piece of heavy foil in half to make an 18-inch square. Lightly coat one side of foil with nonstick cooking spray. On coated surface, arrange half of bacon in center of foil. Top with half of potatoes, half of sweet pepper, half of onion and half of cheese. Top with remaining potatoes, remaining sweet pepper & remaining onion. Sprinkle with seasoned salt and pepper. Top with remaining cheese and bacon. Lightly coat one side of another 18-inch squsare of double thickness heavy foil with nonstick cooking spray; place it, coated side down, down on top of potato stack. Seal all edges with a double fold, leaving space for steam buildup. Grill veggie packet on an uncovered grill rack of an uncovered grill directly over medium coals for 20 to 25 minutes or until potatoes are tender, turning the packet once. Makes 8 servings.

*****

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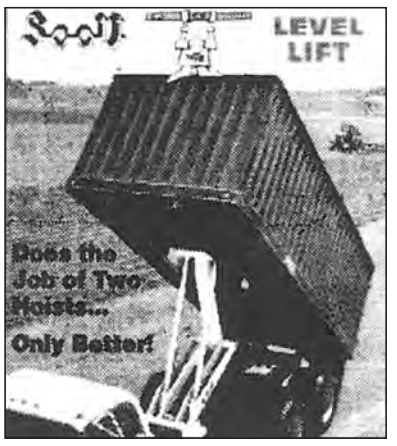

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Banana Bread Gets A Tasty Power Boost

(NAPSA) — When thoughts turn to baking, classic banana bread can get a scrumptious new look and nutrition power boost with the addition of sweet, fiber-rich figs and yummy chocolate morsels.

Looking for an after-school snack for the kids, a morning treat to enjoy with coffee? Chocolate Fig Banana Bread delivers on all counts. Freeze loaves whole or cut into slices and wrap individually in plastic wrap to grab out of the freezer for everyday use.

Although it's likely to be rare, if there are leftovers, Chocolate Fig Banana Bread can be used to transform bread pudding, French toast and layered ice cream parfaits into decadent dishes to delight friends and family.

Use dark purple Mission Figs or Golden Figs; both work equally well in the recipe and add the same power boost of sweet fruit flavor, fiber and potassium. Keep California Dried Figs on hand for a quick energy-rich snack and sweet addition to salads, side dishes and cereals.

For more recipes, baking tips, figs and fig products, go to the Valley Fig Growers website, www.valleyfig.com.

CHOCOLATE FIG BANANA BREAD

2 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup granulated sugar
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 cups mashed, very ripe bananas (about 4)
2 large eggs
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 cup stemmed, chopped (1/2-inch) Blue Ribbon Orchard Choice or Sun-Maid Mission or Calimyrna Figs
1/2 cup miniature chocolate morsels

Adjust oven rack to middle position and heat oven to 350 degrees. Oil 9-by-5-inch loaf pan. In large bowl, whisk together flour, sugar, baking powder, soda and salt. In separate bowl, whisk together bananas, eggs, oil and vanilla. Whisk liquids into dry ingredients, mixing just until blended. Stir in figs and chocolate. Scrape batter into prepared pan. Bake 60 to 70 minutes (cover with foil after about 30 minutes to prevent overbrowning) or until pick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes in pan. Run sharp knife around edge of pan and remove bread from pan to wire rack to cool.

Wrap air-tight and store at room temperature or freeze. Makes 1 loaf.

Onions: Yellow, Red, White

(NAPSA) — Onions — they're used in a wide range of recipes, from breakfast to supper and nearly every ethnic cuisine. To help you get the best results, here are a few facts about each type and how to decide which onions to use.

• Yellow onions are all purpose, used every way from raw to roasted. They are the most abundant type of onion. When raw, their flavor can range from sweet to pungent, depending on the variety and time of year. Cooking brings out their nutty, mellow flavor-especially when caramelized.

• Red onions are increasingly popular, especially raw in salads and sandwiches. Their wonderful color also makes them perfect for grilling, charbroiling and roasting.

• White onions are commonly used in Mexican, Southwest and BBQ dishes. They are also used in sauces and potato and pasta salads. When sautéed, they turn a golden color and have a mild flavor.

With so many ways in which they can be used, it's easy to see why the National Onion Association says onions are among the most versatile vegetables.

For tips on how to caramelize onions and recipe ideas, visit www.onions-usa.org

Happy 2013

By Lou Ann Thomas

Happy 2013! Show of hands, how many of you stayed up to personally greet the New Year?

In my youth, my friend Babs and I rarely missed the first moments of a new year, and the fresh start it represented. But these days I rarely make it to the stroke of midnight. Oh, I intend to. I look forward to seeing the ball drop and the new year begin, and sometimes I make it – at least in East Coast time.

Babs still always stays up to happily greet the New Year. She believes by doing so she insures that the coming days of the year will be met with that same enthusiasm. I, on the other hand, believe that by going to bed at a "reasonable time" I am better equipped to welcome the first day of the New Year with energy and a clear head.

Babs never tires of trying to get me to join her in New Year's celebrations and, despite sometimes agreeing to do so, I most often opt instead for a quiet evening at home. This year, Babs, knowing I had had a challenging year and was really looking forward to a positive shift in 2013, tried extraordinarily hard to coax me out and about last night.

"What's the big deal, Babs? What's so special about staying up to see the first tick of a New Year? We don't celebrate other special days that way. We don't make it a point to stay up all night Thursday night so we can witness the first moment of the day the blender was invented," I said in my defense.

Babs didn't have a ready response and I couldn't help but smile. It gives me great joy to leave Babs speechless, probably because it is such a rarity.

"When was the blender invented?" Babs finally asked.

"January 4, 1910. Are you planning to celebrate it?" I asked, sarcasm swirling.

"No, but I might plan a party for us to recognize 'You Need to Get a Life Day,' because I suspect you've been spending the holidays browsing through your collection of reference books," Babs said.

And she was right. Sometimes, even with a New Year and the fresh start it brings, it's good to know some things never change and some people will love you no matter how much you do.

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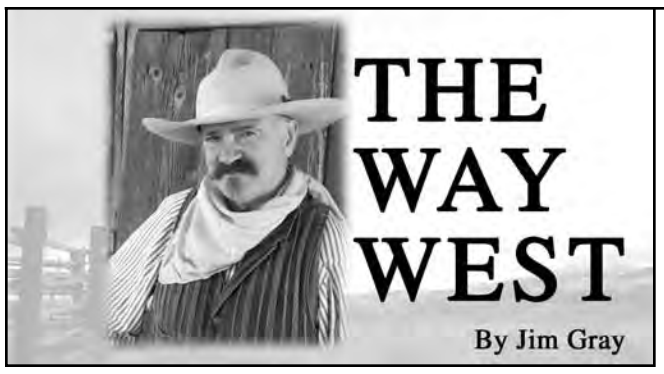

Bitter Death on the Western Plains

As 1874 drew to a close the rural population of Kansas teetered on the edge of catastrophe. The grasshopper invasion of 1874 devastated the state's farmers, leaving them poor and unable to provide basic necessities to fend off the winter cold. Cold northers swept into Kansas in November, leaving destitute families freezing and starving. Many settlers turned to the buffalo to stave off starvation. One particular group of hunters included John Born, the brother of Dutch Henry Born. John later disappeared from Born family history. When asked as to John's fate, Dutch would only answer, "He died in a blizzard on the plains." The rest of the story was found one hundred thirty-four years later in a newspaper article entitled "Escaped From A Living Grave."

By 1874 the buffalo herds had been reduced but were still present in large numbers southwest of Dodge City. John Born's party of hunters went into camp the evening of January 7, 1875, somewhere between Crooked Creek and what was termed the dry Cimarron River, near the old Dry Route of the Santa Fe Trail. The wagon was placed to break as much of a strong south wind as possible for the camp. The men picketed their horses and made their beds away from the wind on the north side of the wagon. Not long after dark a storm caused everyone to hunker down in their beds as a fierce south wind blew for a short time. Suddenly an ominous calm came over the camp. It was as though the breath of God had drawn all of the air out of the sky for just a moment. "...then swept down from the north a terrific gale, accompanied by a heavy fall of snow." The men responded by pulling the coverings over their heads to endure the storm as comfortably as possible. All through the night the snow "...was driven with such force and the cold so intense that the snowdrift forming over them was at once frozen almost hard as ice." Two of the men were sleeping together for warmth. On each side were men sleeping alone. One of them was S.S. Vansickle. The snow eventually covered the men in two to three feet of snow "...hard enough to bear up a horse." The men were snowed in so completely that they could not even turn over. They were not close enough to reach one another but could communicate through the snow. In that condition the men were imprisoned throughout the next day of January 8, 1875. During the long night that followed one man died, as the temperature reached twenty degrees below zero. Vansickle was able to move just slightly in the direction of his head and "Just before daylight on the morning of the 9th (he) determined to make an effort to escape." By then the other hunters, including John Born had succumbed to the bitter cold.

With great effort Vansickle gained a sitting position but became lodged there, once again unable to move. After a rest he worked his way back to his bed "... where he lay until he could see the light of day through his prison walls." Once he broke free from the icy tomb he retrieved his boots which he had used as a pillow for his bed. His feet were so frozen that he could not get them on. Luckily he had a pair of overshoes which did fit over his swollen feet.

Vansickle tried to kindle a fire but failed. By noon he was nearly frozen to death. The picketed horses had somehow survived the deadly blizzard. His only hope was to return to a hunter's camp in the direction of Dodge City. Vansickle cut the picket rope on one of the horses and pulled himself to

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his back. One can only imagine his suffering as he rode for twenty-five miles nearly frozen to the bone. Nearly two days after being buried in an icy grave Vansickle arrived in the hunter's camp. His survival was heralded as nothing short of a miracle. His feet and arms were badly frozen. Luckily he only lost his fingers and toes. Sadly he told of the bitter death of John Born and the others who failed to escape from that living grave. Perhaps the thought of his brother's tragic end was too painful for Dutch Henry to relate, and so he chose only to remember that he had "died in a blizzard on the plains" in one last adventure 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.

Women's ag conference announced for February 7-8

The 2013 Women Managing the Farm Conference is scheduled Feb. 7-8 and will be held in Manhattan at the Hilton Garden Inn.

The popular agriculture conference for women will be the eighth in a series. It began as a regional offering before becoming a multi-day conference held in Hutchinson and, in recent years, in Wichita.

Moving the conference to Manhattan allows greater access to resources at Kansas State University and K-State Research and Extension, said Janet Barrows, who, with Robin Blume, is serving as a volunteer for the educational effort.

Moving the conference also provides an opportunity for adding a pre-conference session, which Barrows dubbed "Blue Jean Basics" on Feb. 6. The session is being planned as a less formal introductory and interactive opportunity for participants to learn from K-State crops and livestock specialists.

The conference is recommended for women who are land owners, farm or ranch managers, partners or employees, absentee landlords, or career women engaged in agricultural careers.

Women new to production agriculture – by inheritance or marriage – find the conference to be informative and reassuring, Barrows said. And, while geared to women, spouses and others appreciate conference topics and time to network with women moving into leadership roles in agriculture.

The 2013 edition of the conference promises a full agenda with featured speakers and more than two dozen breakout sessions considering financial risks; human risks; estate planning and legal issues; insurance; production; drought management; social advocacy; retail agriculture and, yes, even farming in the city.

Jolene Brown, a champion for agriculture and consultant for family-owned businesses will blend humor with tips into two conference presentations.

Her topics, "If We Huff and We Puff Will We Blow Your House Down?" and "The Balancing Act: 10 Ideas to Relieve Stress and Bring Renewal to Our Farm and Family Life" promise a realistic look at agriculture and family life in today's world and offers ideas for moving forward successfully and keeping peace in the family.

The cost to attend the two-day conference is $145 for registrations received by Jan. 23, and $170 for registrations received after Jan. 23. Registration includes conference sessions, materials and packet, two lunches, one breakfast buffet, and refreshment breaks.

More information about the conference and online registration is available at www.womenmanagingthefarm.info.

The conference hotel (Hilton Garden Inn) will offer a limited number of rooms at a conference rate ($104 plus 15.05 percent tax). Reservations can be made online as part of the registration process or by phone: 1-785-532-9116. The conference code is WMFC.

The conference typically attracts more than 200 attendees, and early registration and reservations are recommended, Barrows said.

Conference sponsors and partners include the USDA Farm Service Agency; K-State Research and Extension; Kansas Farm Bureau; Farm Credit Associations of Kansas, which includes Frontier Farm Credit; American AgCredit; Farm Credit of Ness City; High Plains Farm Credit; Farm Credit of Western Kansas, and Farm Credit of Southwest Kansas, Kansas Dairy Commission, Kansas Wheat, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Steamboat: "Bucking was his business"

Steamboat was foaled near Chugwater, Wyoming in 1896. He was jet black with three white socks and was the offspring of a Percheron stallion and a Mexican hot blood mare. He was destined to become one of the most famous horses in Wyoming history. He was born to buck and became a legend in the American West.

The horse was sold to the Swan Land and Cattle Company that had holdings extending across three counties in Wyoming. The Swan cowboys would break the colts out on the range and put enough rides on them to start using the young horses for ranch work. Jimmy Danks was the first man to ride Steamboat and gave him the name that would live on in Wyoming history. When the cowboys castrated the young horse, he slammed his head so hard against the ground that he broke a bone in his nose. That injury caused him to breathe with a whistling sound that sounded like a steamboat's whistle so Jimmy Danks named the young horse Steamboat.

Candy and Flossie Moulton researched the history of Steamboat. In their book, *Steamboat Legendary Bucking Horse*, Moulton quotes Jimmy Danks describing the first time he rode the horse in 1900.

"We worked them colts out when we got ahold of Steamboat. Wh, I bitted him several times in the corral and rode him about four times in the corral. He was kind of stubborn and I would get right on to him and he would just stand there and when you screwed him a little bit with the spurs he would go to; he would buck and when he bucked he bucked hard. And so I decided I would take him out there one day. When he came out of the corral he looked that way and this way. He blowed up at me and we had one of the damnedest saddle fights you ever saw."

"Sloan opened the gate and when we came out of the barn the horse looked up at me and went to buckin'. He was bucking pretty hard, too hard to grab the horn, he tore me loose from there and I gave up the elbow. He went around and around. He throwed me this way and that and I thought, well here I go. He went out across the field toward the fence and irrigation ditch. He went about one hundred yards and stopped and he didn't hit the fence or the ditch on the other side. He got along to a flat and I got along with him all right from there on. Later, I said to Sloan 'thought you were going to haze for me,' and he said he was too busy watching the horse buck,"

Danks and Sloan tried to tame him but he was a bucker and hard to ride. He was unsuited for a using horse so he was sent to the rodeos and first came on the scene at the Festival of Mountain and Plain in Denver in 1901. He was a powerful bucker and his reputation spread across the region. Over the next dozen years, Steamboat bucked his way to fame as he threw the top riders of the day into the dirt and gave those who had the ability and determination to stick with him the ride of a lifetime.

In the rodeo arena, he stood still while he was being saddled but once turned loose; Steamboat usually squatted down before he started bucking. He bucked hard and fast with ramrod stiff legs that hit the ground like pile drivers that punished riders.

Steamboat was soon the main attraction at Denver and Cheyenne's Frontier Days Rodeo. He became the undisputed champion of the

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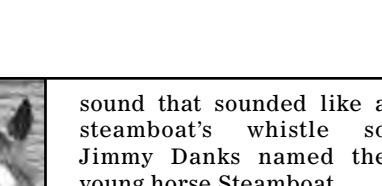
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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2013
Maner Conference Center & Heritage Hall, Kansas Expocentre, SW 17th St. & SW Topeka Blvd., Topeka

8:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m. Registration & exhibits

9-10 a.m. K-State Research & Extension "Soybean Update"
Moderator – **Gary Kilgore,** emeritus professor of agronomy
"Next Generation Breeding: Phenotyping Using Spectral Analysis" – **Bill Schapaugh,** Ph.D., professor of soybean breeding
"Soybean Inoculation: Trials & Tribulations" – **Chuck Rice,** Ph.D., distinguished professor of soil microbiology
"Soybean Fungicides & Insecticides" – **Doug Shoup,** Ph.D., Southeast Area agronomist

10-11 a.m. Morning Session: Organizational Updates
American Soybean Association
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Biodiesel Board
CommonGround Kansas

11 a.m.-noon Keynote Speaker
"Record-Setting, Fastest Biodiesel" – **Brent Hajek,** Oklahoma soybean farmer & land-speed record-holder

12:15-2 p.m. Luncheon
Master of ceremonies – **Greg Akagi,** Kansas Agriculture Network
Remarks – **Dale Rodman,** Kansas secretary of agriculture
Speaker – U.S. Sen. **Pat Roberts** (invited)
Awards & recognitions, including the Kansas Soybean Yield & Quality Contests winners
Kansas Soybean Association Annual Meeting, with President **Charles Atkinson,** Great Bend, presiding

2:15-3:15 p.m. Afternoon Session: Planning for the Future
"Weather" – **Mike Smith,** meteorologist, senior vice president & chief innovation executive, AccuWeather Enterprise Solutions

3:30-4:30 p.m. **Reception:** Meet the Kansas Soybean Association directors & Kansas Soybean commissioners

For more information: www.KansasSoybeans.org
877-KS-SOYBEAN (877-577-6923)

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The Kansas Soybean Expo is a project of the Kansas Soybean Association, the voice & advocate for soybean-farmer members, with funding from the Kansas Soybean Commission, the soybean checkoff.

buckers and for the next eight years or so was known as The King of the Buckers. He was voted Worst Bucking Horse of the year at Cheyenne Frontier Days Celebration in 1906 and 1907. He was called "Old Outlaw Horse" and "the worst to come off the range in many a year" by newspaper writers of that same era. He was at the pinnacle of his career around 1907.

Steamboat's ability as a bucker would have been long forgotten except for the fact that he was the horse depicted on the University of Wyoming's cowboy logo in 1921. The design was taken from a photo made by University Professor B. C. Buffum in 1903 of Guy Holt on Steamboat at the Albany County Fair and has been called the classic bucking horse photo of all time.

Legend has it that Steamboat is the bucking horse on the Wyoming automobile license plates but there is no conclusive evidence that is true but there is a definite likeness to Buffum's photograph and the horse and rider on the plates.

There is a 14-foot statue of Steamboat by Cody, Wyoming artist Peter M. Fillerup that was placed permanently at the University of Wyoming in 1990 to commemorate the state's centennial. The rider on the horse is a composite of all the early day cowboys who rode Steamboat. The cowboy of Fillerup's creation has angora chaps flying and hat in hand. The statue is named "Fanning A Twister — Steamboat."

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

Sankeys Erica 525 won Roll of Victory (ROV) dam of the year at the 2012 North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) Super Point Roll of Victory (ROV) Angus Show, Nov. 12-13 in Louisville, Ky. Chris and Sharee Sankey, Council Grove, own the winning female. Pictured from left are American Angus Association Director of Activities and Events, Shelia Stannard; Sharee and Chris Sankey; and Miss American Angus Brooke Harward.

Photo by Carrie Heitman, American Angus Association

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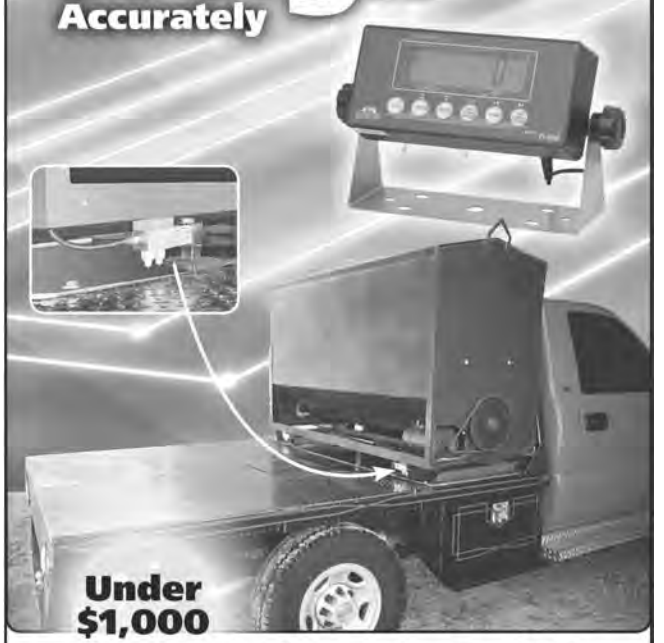

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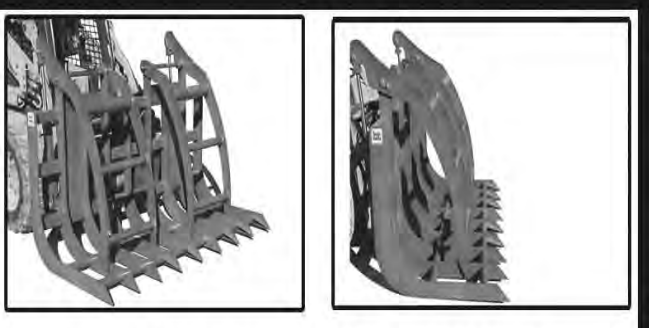

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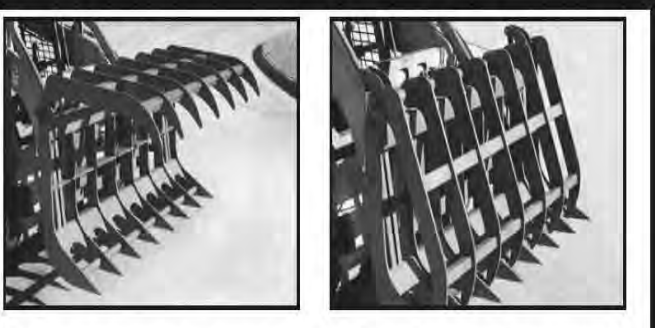

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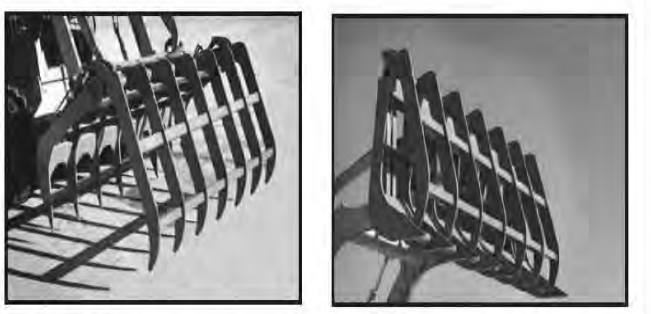

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EPA retains dust standard — NCBA pleased but seeks permanent solution

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced recently that it would retain the coarse particulate matter (PM) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS), eliciting a positive response from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) on behalf of cattle producers across the country.

"NCBA is pleased that EPA has decided to retain the current coarse PM standard and did not make a bad situation worse," said NCBA deputy environmental Counsel Ashley McDonald. "Unfortunately, cattle producers did not get the permanent certainty they were seeking in the form of legislation and will again face a review of this standard within five years. But for today, NCBA is relieved that EPA listened to rural America and realized that further tightening the dust standard would have disastrous effects on America's agricultural economy."

The PM standard, commonly known as the dust standard, remains one of the most important environmental issues facing cattle producers. Under the Clean Air Act (CAA), EPA is required to review the dust standard every five years to evaluate its protection of public health. Despite the lack of any scientific evidence finding any harm to human health from rural dust at ambient levels, agricultural operations in arid parts of the country have a difficult time attaining compliance with the dust standard at its current level, and must implement costly practices in order to mitigate dust.

Under the current review of the dust standard, EPA proposed in June of this year to retain the coarse PM standard, and NCBA, state cattlemen's associations and members submitted comments encouraging EPA to make that proposal final. McDonald made it clear that if the PM standard had been tightened, it would have been virtually impossible for current agricultural operations to demonstrate compliance, subjecting them to fines under the CAA of up to $37,500 per day.

"A stricter PM standard would have an impact that would cause most of cattle country, including the entire Midwest, West and Southwest, to be out of compliance or at the brink," McDonald said. "For now, 15-mile–per-hour speed limits on dirt roads, paving dirt and gravel roads and a prohibition on harvesting or tilling during the day are not regulatory requirements in most states, but could easily become a reality if EPA continues to regulate farm dust."

McDonald added that until legislation is passed by Congress giving cattle producers permanent relief from dust regulations, NCBA will continue to fight EPA's dust standard.

Kansas drought task force to meet more regularly

(AP) – Gov. Sam Brownback says a drought task force will start meeting more frequently to deal with the challenges of the dry conditions, which are causing significant drops in the water levels in Kansas lakes.

The Kansas state drought task force will meet regularly to discuss ways to deal with the ongoing drought, Gov. Sam Brownback said at a recent meeting.

"We're going to have drought meetings on a regular basis," Brownback said Thursday during a conference call with other state officials to talk about drought conditions in Kansas. "We're getting in a tough spot. Meanwhile, pray for rain."

Tracy Streeter, director of the Kansas Water Office and chairman of the task force, cited several lakes in the eastern part of the state that are declining because of less water flowing into the lakes, The Hays Daily News reported.

He said nearly 600,000 acre-feet of water has been lost since April in 13 lakes with state water storage.

"Conditions are dry, and there's no positive outlook," Streeter said of conditions facing the state.

At least 200 water supply systems in Kansas have also entered conservation phases, and at least nine are in emergency situations, restricting or banning outside water uses.

Streeter said it's important that water suppliers know the condition of their source of water.

"That's probably our main message," he said, "go out and evaluate what you've got."

Kansas Agriculture Secretary Dale Rodman said it's important to plan for a long term drought even though there's hope conditions will improve. Rodman said that the Division of Water Resources has received about 750 multi-year flex account requests, and nearly 500 of them are conversions from drought-term permits, a program put in place in 2011 to help irrigators deal with effects of drought.

Water rights are also actively being administered in much of Kansas, and more than 1,200 notices of non-compliance have been sent to water rights holders. Of those, 180 civil penalties have been issued for over pumping, and three water rights have been suspended for a year. Seven others have been suspended for meter violations.

Rodman also said that so far this year, crop insurance payments have exceeded $1 billion.

"We baled a lot of CRP last year that hasn't been baled in a long time," Rodman said of the federal government's Conservation Reserve Program. "It hasn't come back, so it isn't a source for us."

Webinars for ranch advisors to focus on drought planning

A winter/spring webinar series will provide drought planning information and tools to advisors seeking to help Great Plains ranchers better prepare for and respond to drought. The webinars are scheduled from January through May 2013, on the last Wednesday of each month.

"What happens from January through May will be really critical," said Lynn Myers, a Sandhills rancher who will be one of the January presenters. "For example, it could determine whether there are cattle in the western Sandhills in 2013."

Each one-hour webinar will start at 10 a.m. (CT) with a briefing on current drought status and what to expect in the foreseeable future, followed by a session on a specific topic or tool related to drought planning, and question-and-answer time. The webinars will be led by ranchers and advisors with hands-on experience in drought planning and range management.

Jerry Volesky, a range and forage specialist at the UNL West Central Research and Extension Center in North Platte, Neb., will introduce the series by talking about why ranchers need drought plans: "It leads to earlier and more effective management decisions that can have positive economic benefits," he said. "Additionally, ranchers that have well-developed plans indicate that their plans have made the drought event less stressful and it gives them a sense of confidence."

Dates, topics and presenters in the series are:

January 30: Managing Drought Risk on the Ranch: The Planning Process, by Jerry Volesky, Range and Forage Specialist at the UNL West Central Research and Extension Center in North Platte, Nebraska, and Lynn Myers, owner of Tippets-Myers Ranch in western Nebraska.

February 27: Avoiding Analysis Paralysis: Monitoring and Setting Critical Dates for Decision Making During Drought, by Dwayne Rice, Rangeland Management Specialist, NRCS, Kansas; Ted Alexander, owner of Alexander Ranch in south-central Kansas; and Cal Adams, owner of Adams Ranch in north-central Kansas.

March 27: The New Cumulative Forage Reduction (CFR) Index: Assessing Drought Impacts and Planning a Grazing Strategy, by Pat Reece, owner and senior consultant of Prairie Montane Enterprises and Professor Emeritus of the University of Nebraska – Lincoln.

April 24: Using a Drought Calculator to Assist Stocking Decisions, Stan Boltz, State Range Management Specialist, NRCS, South Dakota.

May 29: Economic Factors to Weigh in Making Decisions during Drought, by Matt Stockton, Agricultural Economist at the UNL West Central Research and Extension Center in North Platte, Nebraska.

The sessions are free and open to the public. Registration is required to receive the Adobe Connect webinar link. To register, go to http://go.unl.edu/uwk.

More information can be found at the Managing Drought Risk on the Ranch website, at http://drought.unl.edu/ranchplan. Please contact Tonya Haigh, National Drought Mitigation Center and SARE project coordinator, thaigh2@unl.edu, 402-472-6781, with any questions.

The webinars are sponsored by the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The series was developed with support from the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture — National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA). Any opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed within do not necessarily reflect the view of the SARE program or the U.S. Department of Agriculture. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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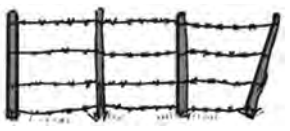
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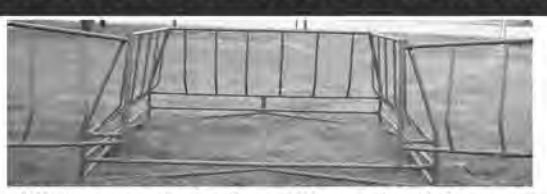
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Lease meetings to provide local data and lease development tools

Kansas agriculture producers and landowners have relied for years on the Kansas Agriculture Statistics Service Lease Survey as a basis for updating their farm leases. In recent years, this survey was the casualty of budget cuts in agriculture programs and is no longer being conducted.

"These landlords and tenants have always turned to K-State Research and Extension for this information and now we just don't have any good local lease rate data to provide to them," says John Forshee, River Valley Extension District Director.

To fill this void in information, River Valley Extension Livestock Agent, Robin Slattery, along with Forshee and River Valley Extension Crops Agent, Todd Whitney, developed a River Valley Ag Lease Survey that was distributed to producers and landowners representing each township in each of the four counties throughout the district this fall. With over a forty percent return rate, the district now has some excellent local lease data to provide to producers.

The results of this lease survey, along with other lease topics will be presented in two River Valley District Developing Lease Arrangements Workshops. The first workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, January 15, 2013 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the American Legion in Concordia. The second workshop will be Wednesday, January 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Kloppenberg Center in Hanover. The results of the survey will be presented as a starting point for landowners and tenants in updating lease agreements.

Topics for the day include: Kansas Lease Law, Principles and Ethics of Developing Leases, 2012 Survey Results on Crop Leasing Arrangement and Rates, 2012 Survey Results on Pasture Leasing Rates, Tools and Resources available for Lease questions.

There is no cost or registration required to attend these meetings. The program is being presented by River Valley District Agents Robin Slattery, John Forshee and Todd Whitney and is sponsored in part by the Kansas Crossroads Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.

Snow can provide benefits to wheat crop

Much-anticipated snow this winter will bring many benefits to the struggling wheat crop, said Jim Shroyer, K-State Research and Extension crop production specialist. In many ways, snow will be even more beneficial than rain.

The benefits he outlined include:

* **Moisture.** Obviously, snow brings much-needed moisture to wheat fields. The general rule is ten inches of snow equals one inch of rain, although this varies, depending on how fluffy or heavy the snow is. One of the benefits of getting moisture in the form of snow is that nearly all the moisture will move down into the soil and remain there for quite some time. Since the weather is cold, or at least cool, after a snow, very little of it will evaporate immediately.

* **Root development.** Moisture from snow will help increase root growth of wheat. Even if the top growth is dormant and isn't growing during periods of cold weather, roots will continue to grow if there is moisture.

* **Soil protection.** Snow cover does a great job in keeping the soil from blowing. As long as the ground is protected by snow, soil particles on the surface can't be picked up by high winds, thus preventing wind erosion for a time.

* **Soil temperatures.** Snow has an insulating effect on the soil, keeping very cold air temperatures from reducing soil temperatures and protecting the crown of the wheat plant from cold injury. Snow also keeps soils warmer during the winter by adding moisture to the soil. It takes much longer for wet soils to get cold than dry soils.

The best way for a grower to improve the chances of having snow cover is to maintain standing residue on the field, Shroyer added.

"Standing residue is especially effective in capturing and keeping snow, especially when it's windy. That's another reason that keeping residue on the soil is important," he said.

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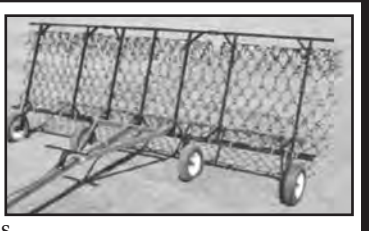

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K-State to host 4-State Beef Conference Jan. 29 in Wamego and Seneca

K-State Research and Extension will host the 4-State Beef Conference at two Kansas locations on Tuesday, Jan. 29. The conference, set for 5:00 to 8:30 p.m., will be held in Wamego at the Wamego Senior Center, 502 Ash St., and in Seneca at the Community Building, 1500 Community Drive.

The conference is designed to give those with an interest in beef cattle in Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri a regular update on cow-calf and stocker topics. Sessions will also be held in Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska. An evening meal is included in the cost of the $20 registration.

Three topics to be covered at each location are the same, although some speakers will be different. They include:

• Genetic Improvement of Beef Cattle Feed Efficiency — Bob Weaber, K-State cow-calf extension specialist (Wamego) and a representative of the U.S. Consortium for the Genetic Improvement of Feed Efficiency in Beef Cattle (Seneca).

• Engaging Consumers in a Beef Conversation — Daren Williams, executive director of communications, National Cattlemen's Beef Association (both locations).

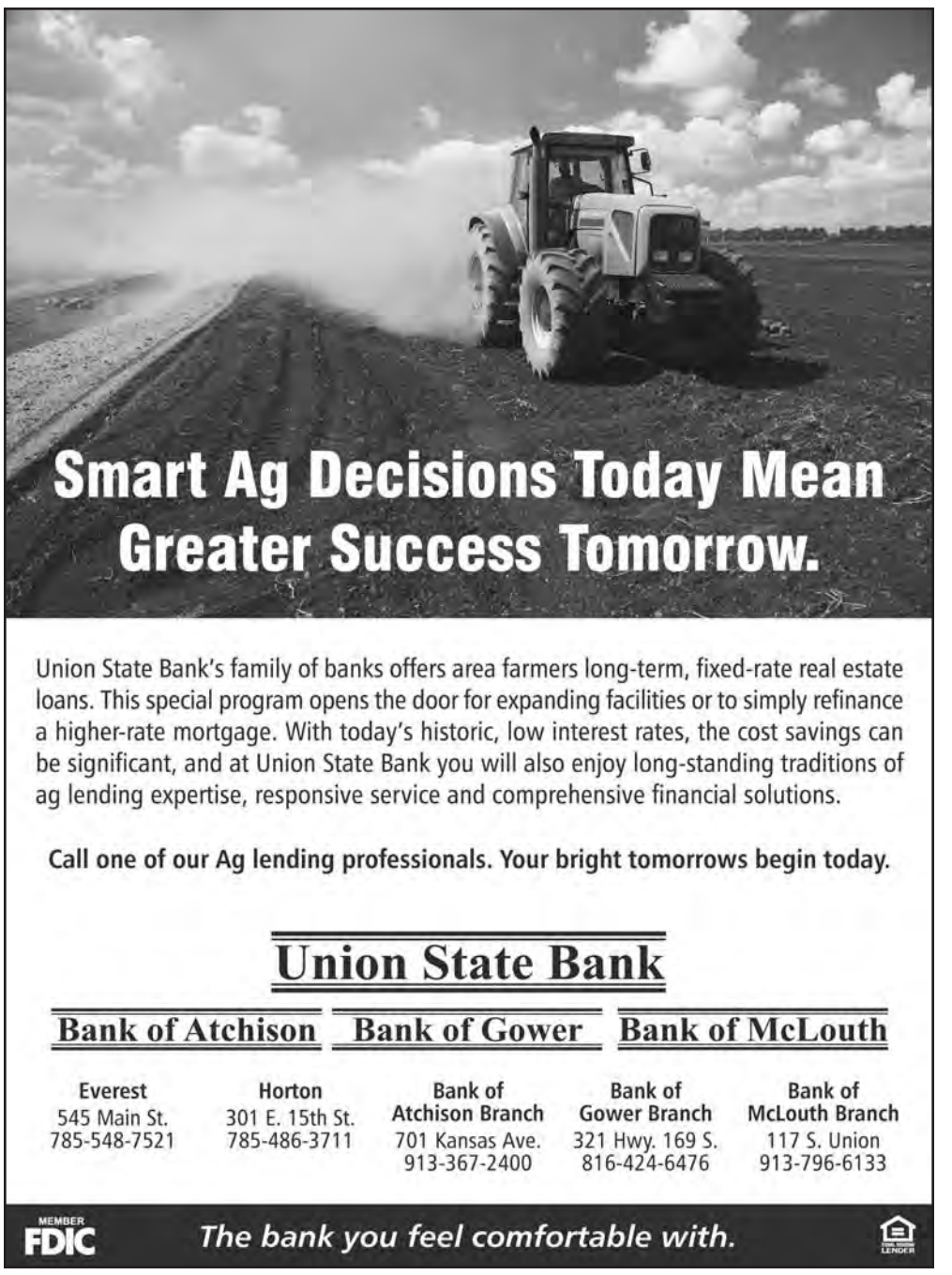
• Beef Industry Update and Outlook — Todd Kalous, market analyst, CattleFax (both locations).

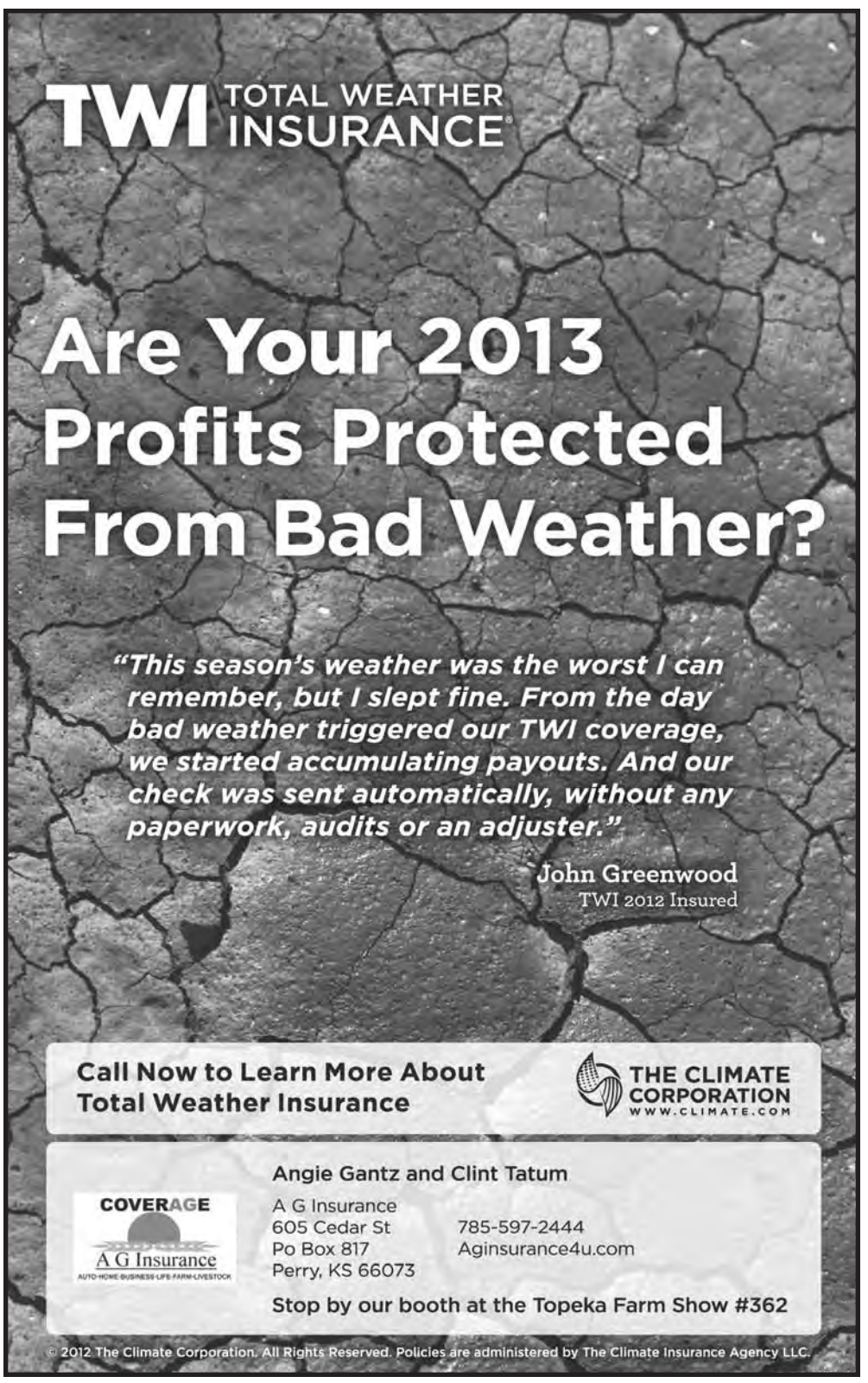
• Saving that Precious Hay — Amy Bandel, veterinarian, Mill Creek Veterinary Services (Wamego) and Jody Holthaus, Meadowlark District livestock and natural resources Extension agent (Seneca).

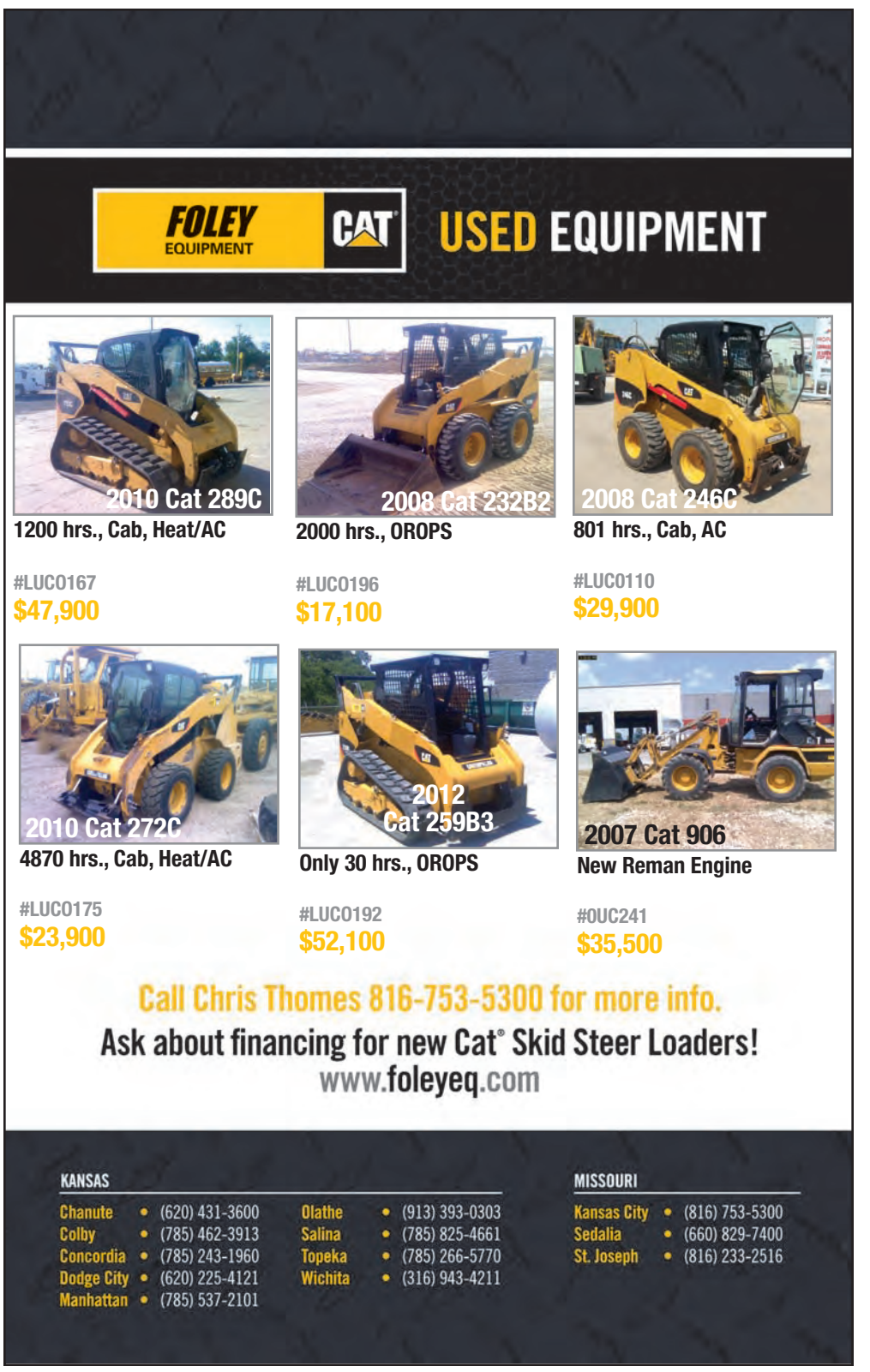
Attendees are asked to pre-register by Friday, Jan. 25 to ensure an adequate number of meals and copies of conference proceedings.

For more information or to register for the Wamego site, contact Karaline Mayer at 785-765-3821 or kamayer@ksu.edu or Austin Sexten at 785-457-3319 or ajsexten@ksu.edu. For more information or to register for the Seneca site, contact Jody Holthaus at 785-364-4125 or jholthau@ksu.edu.

More information about the 4-State Beef Conference is available at www.ksubeef.org. Additional information, including details regarding conference sites in other states, is available at www.extension.iastate.edu/feci/4StBeef. The conference is coordinated by specialists at four land grant universities: Kansas State University, University of Missouri, University of Nebraska and Iowa State University.







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Grandpa Tommy was reminiscing, "It's a shame everybody couldn't go through the Great Depression."

I know what he meant. I think. He didn't mean it like "It's a shame everybody hadn't been in a concentration camp or had polio." He was remarking that most of us Baby Boomers and younger are unable to appreciate how technology has pampered us. There was no safety net back then. Grandpa Tommy spent the Dirty 30's in the depths of the Dust Bowl in Syracuse, Kansas. Then the first half of the 40's he was on a Navy vessel in the Pacific.

He passed away without seeing our OsamaConomy. The hard times that today's generations are suffering under, began on 9/11/2001. We sank to the bottom immediately. Unemployment in 2002 was 7.5%. We pulled ourselves out and by 2007 unemployment had fallen to 4.5%. Then we over-reached and crashed again in 2008, where we have wallowed for four years with 8-10% unemployment. But this whole series of events in the last 11 years began on 9/11/01.

During this OsamaConomy, a large percent of our population has had to tighten our belts, however a smaller 10% has suffered mightily. But, in Grandpa Tommy's defense, just a very tiny percent of those of us caught in the vise of OsamaConomy have gone hungry or have no roof over their head. Present-day technology has allowed the majority of the unemployed access to computers, cell phones, vehicles, televisions, emergency health care and school for their kids.

The safety net that is helping these "victims" includes family, friends, churches, private giving and government programs financed by those still working and paying taxes. This safety net has prevented any mass migration of the unemployed seeking work. If there had been a mass migration, North Dakota and Wyoming would have doubled in population! The ten percent unemployed have been able to stay in familiar surroundings and are able to get temporary assistance to ride it out.

The Great Depression had 25% unemployment at its peak and lasted 9 – 10 years. Only the outbreak of World War II brought an end to it.

It is the prayer of all of us, that our foundering leaders will get their collective heads out of the mud, step out of the way and let America go back to work. It took us 5 years to recover after 9/11. In 2007 the federal government collected a record-high annual tax revenue from the private sector. That money came from people working and paying taxes, from Bill Gates to the legal immigrant mowing his lawn.

We all breathed a sigh of relief when our soldiers finally sent Osama Bin Laden to hell. There seems to be a lot of blame thrown around about who should bear the burden of our toxic economy. I don't have any doubt. It was him. Osama was this generation's Hitler, Ho Chi Minh, Yamamoto and Small Pox.

In 2005 I went to New Orleans after Katrina to muck out houses. There were two kind of people that showed up; those who came to help and those who came to blame.

In this OsamaConomy we've been barraged with ads and debates by those who come to blame. My head is ringing. But I know we will get out of this mess. Not because I have faith in the government, but because I have faith in those who get up every day and come to work, like Grandpa Tommy did, just doin' his part.

Happy New Year and God bless you.

FARM AUCTION
SUNDAY, JANUARY 6 — 12:00 PM
LOCATION: 2724 E. Hwy. 18, 1 1/2 miles West BEVERLY, KS
Between mile marker 103-104, North side of Highway.
• 1973 Massey Tractor with loader • 7' blade • Diggers
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SELLER: HAROLD SMITH
VESTAL'S AUCTION

REAL ESTATE
AUCTION
MONDAY, JANUARY 21 — 7:00 PM
Selling 315 Acres +/- native grass pasture with two rural water meters. One of a kind property in North Osage County, KS. Well cared for grass with blacktop road on East & gravel road on south. Close to Topeka, Lawrence, Pomona and Clinton Lakes.
LOCATED from OVERBROOK, KS: 5 miles North on Shawnee Heights Rd. (Shawnee Hts. Rd. & 121st is the southeast corner of property).
INSPECTION: Friday, Jan. 4: 2-4 PM
SALLY MAICHEL WIEBE, SELLER
Info: Miller & Midyett Real Estate
Wayne Wischropp: 785-828-4212

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AUCTION
MONDAY, JANUARY 21 — 1:30 PM
Sale Site: Hamm Auction Center
107 NE State Road 61 — PRATT, KANSAS
160 +/- ACRES IRRIGATED PRATT COUNTY LAND
2003 Valley 8 Tower system & Cummins diesel engine.
195 Acre feet of water. Seller reserves 40% of mineral rights.

Legal Description: SW ¼ of 29-27-15 in Pratt, County Kansas
From Cullison — 5 miles west & 2.5 miles North
FSA Information: Base Acres as follows:
Corn: 129.0 acres; Soybeans: 12.4 acres; Wheat: 14.2 acres

Terms as follows:
Seller: Plans to do a 1031 Exchange
Earnest Money: $25,000.00 Down Day of Sale
Title Insurance & Closing Fee: 50% Buyer, 50% Seller
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January 29-30, 2013
Bicentennial Center Salina, Kansas

Tuesday
9:00 am **Industry Sessions**
12:45 pm Opening remarks
6:30 pm Tradeshow/Networking

Wednesday
8:00 am – 5:30 pm

Register for $175 (spouses $90) by January 11
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"The Use of Biological Primers to Advance Soil Health"
January 31, 2013 8:30 am – 4:30 pm *Bicentennial Center Salina, Kansas*
Agriculture's Innovative Minds Symposium will feature research scientists Dr. Jill Clapperton and Dr. Ademir Calegari, along with research entomologist Dr. Jonathan Lundgren who will address the synergies and interaction of biological primers (cover crops) between plant species, soil microbes, nutrients, and the insect world. Attendees will gain perspective on the water and nutrient use and efficiency within the system.
Register for $199 (spouses $99) by January 11 *limited availability – no walk-in's*
Winter Conference + AIM package deal for $324 (spouses $164)

Visit www.notill.org for additional information

Auction Sales Scheduled

January 1 — Harley Gerdes 28th annual New Year's Day consignment auction at Lyndon. Auctioneers: Harley Gerdes Auction.

January 5 — Furniture, guns, glassware & collectibles, misc. at Junction City for Lillian Wells Estate & John Pack III Estate. Auctioneers: Brown Real Estate & Auction Service, LLC.

January 6 — Appliances, household, furniture, toys, yard & garden at Manhattan for Edith Moss Estate. Auctioneers: Gannon Real Estate & Auctions.

January 6 — Tractor w/loader, diggers, augers, mower, 4-wheeler, lawn mower, trailers, panels, small items at Beverly for Harold Smith. Auctioneers: Vestal's Auction.

January 8 — Home on approx. 2 acres, boat, cake decorating items, household at Manhattan for Brad & Tammy Sinn. Auctioneers: Gannon Real Estate & Auctions.

January 9 — Combines, tractors, trucks, grain carts, manure spreaders, planters, tillage equip., trailers & more online (www.bigiron.com). Auctioneers: Stock Auction Co.

January 12 — Ice manufacturing & dispensing equipment, offices equip., motors, yard supplies, shop equip., transformers, trailers at El Dorado for Charles B. Long. Auctioneers: Sundgren Realty, Inc.

January 13 — Signs, gas globes, glass & collectibles at Salina. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

January 15 — Dickinson County farmland & grassland at Abilene for the Oliver & Lela Engle land. Auctioneers: Riordan Auction & Realty.

January 16 — Tractors, combines, crane, planters, rakes, skid steers, sprayers, trailers, trucks, tillage & planting equip., mower conditioners & more online (www.bigiron.com). Auctioneers: Stock Auction Company.

January 19 — Household goods, antiques & misc. at Leonardville for Harlan & Fern Hageman. Auctioneers: Kretz, Hauserman, Bloom Auction Service.

January 19 — Construction & pool equipment at Manhattan for former Gerald Brickei Construction. Auctioneers: Murray Auction & Realty.

January 21 — Irrigated Pratt County land at Pratt. Auctioneers: Hamm Auction & Real Estate, LLC.

January 21 — Osage County native grass pasture at Overbrook for Sally Maichel Wiebe. Auctioneers: Wayne Wischropp, Miller Midyett Real Estate.

January 26 — Pottawatomie County riverbottom, farm ground at Wamego for Mark Pope. Auctioneers: Murray Auction & Realty.

January 30 — Shawnee County land at Topeka. Auctioneers: Farmers National Company.

February 2 — Consignments, machinery, equipment, farm items, etc. at Axtell for Axtell Knights of Columbus.

February 26 — Hereford & Angus bulls & females at Manhattan for Mill Creek Ranch "Brand that Works" Production Sale.

March 2 — 35th Gelbvieh Balancer & Red Angus sale at Pomona for Judd Ranch.

March 9 — Harley Gerdes consignment auction at Lyndon. Auctioneers: Harley Gerdes Auction.

March 9 — Machinery consignments at Concordia for Concordia Optimist Club.

March 11 — Large farm machinery & misc. S. of Abilene for Dale Dautel Estate. Auctioneers: Kretz, Hauserman, Bloom Auction Service.

May 27 — Harley Gerdes 20th annual Memorial Day auction at Lyndon. Auctioneers: Harley Gerdes Auction.

August 3 — Harley Gerdes consignment auction at Lyndon. Auctioneers: Harley Gerdes Auction.

September 2 — Harley Gerdes 18th annual Labor Day consignment auction at Lyndon. Auctioneers: Harley Gerdes Auction.

November 2 — Harley Gerdes consignment auction at Lyndon. Auctioneers: Harley Gerdes Auction.

January 1 — Harley Gerdes 29th annual New Years Day consignment auction at Lyndon. Auctioneers: Harley Gerdes Auction.

Ag Profitability Conference slated for Thursday, January 31

Having a profitable farm and ranch operation can be difficult in the 21st century. Farmers and ranchers face many challenges, such as volatility in the grain and livestock markets, increases in production costs, a new farm bill, and changes in the global economy.

To help farmers and ranchers have a better understanding of these challenges, the Marshall County Extension Service will host an Ag Profitability Conference on Thursday, January 31, 2013 at the Blue Valley Telecommunications Lower Level Public Meeting Room (1559 Pony Express Highway) in Home City. The conference will start at 9:30 a.m. with registration, and will conclude by 2:00 p.m.

Topics and speakers from the K-State Agricultural Economics Department will be:

- Beef and Cattle Economic Market Outlook by Glynn Tonsor
- Update on the 2012 Farm Bill by Troy Dumler
- Grain Market Analysis & Outlook by Dan O'Brien
- Crop Insurance and the 2012 Drought by Art Barnaby

Something new for this meeting, they will have two of the speakers present via the internet since they will be in Western Kansas.

The registration fee is $10.00 per person, or $15 at the door, and reservations are requested by Thursday, January 24, 2013. The fee is to cover the cost of meals and materials. Checks are to be made payable to the Marshall County Educational Fund.

If you are interested in attending this meeting, please fill out the registration form in this issue of the Marshall County Extension Service General Newsletter, call the Marshall County Extension Office at (785) 562-3531, or E-mail Michael Vogt at Mvogt@ksu.edu. Please preregister by Friday, January 25, 2013, so they know how many lunches to prepare.

If you want to learn how to manage some of the challenges in agriculture, you will want to make plans to attend the Ag Profitability Conference on January 31 at the Blue Valley Telecommunications in Home City.

FARMLAND

AUCTION

REMINDER

Tuesday, January 15, 2013
7:30 p.m.
Sale held at the
Abilene Civic Center,
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REAL ESTATE

AUCTION

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8 — 6:00 PM

3710 Silver Creek Road — MANHATTAN, KANSAS

HOME ON APPROXIMATELY 2 ACRES

This home is on approximately 2 Acres and has 2 bedrooms, kitchen, family/living room and 1 ½ baths on the main floor and a full partially finished walk-out basement. There are several smaller outbuildings on the property. This is a nice well kept must see home with recent interior updates. Many possibilities for this home in the country. **For viewing contact Vern Gannon Auctioneer/Broker 785-770-0066 or Gannon Real Estate and Auctions 785-539-2316. Buyer to pay 10% down day of Auction with balance due on or before February 13, 2013. Buyer and Seller to divide Cost of Title Insurance equally. All inspections including lead base paint inspection to be completed prior to Auction at buyer's expense if requested. Taxes prorated to closing. STATEMENTS MADE DAY OF AUCTION TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER ANY OTHER INFORMATION.**

PERSONAL PROPERTY: Bayliner boat with 50HP motor & trailer; pop-up camping trailer; electric organ; exercise bike; selection of cake pans & cake decorating items; various household items!

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AUCTION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6 — 12:00 NOON

740 Tuttle — MANHATTAN, KANSAS

Frigidaire refrigerator; Hotpoint electric stove; Kenmore automatic washer; GE electric dryer; small chest deep freeze; modern round Oak table & 5 chairs; Oak buffet with mirror; Grandfather clock; entertainment center; King size bed; dresser; chest-of-drawers; china cabinet; recliner; wood framed couch; 3 TV's; double bed; music cabinet; night stand; white dresser & nite stand; 2 wingback chairs; white chrome table & 4 chairs; metal single bed; Duncan Phyfe drum table; coffee table; Singer treadle sewing machine; Baker's rack; hall table; office chairs; 2 2-door cabinets; bookshelf; sewing machine cabinet; antique iron bridge lamp; console stereo; 2 vanity stools; magazine rack; computer stand; magazine stand table; shelf unit; stand table; cabinet; 5-drawer McCall's cabinet; end table; sewing machine; metal storage cabinet; metal shelves; Military field desk; 3 metal lawn chairs; plastic patio tale & 4 chairs; bird cage stand; cart; Jewel Tea covered bowl; square milkglass cake stand; plates; snack sets; set Japan china; oil lamps pictures & frames; carnival compote; candy dishes; large head vase; serving tray; horse clock; candleholders; covered cake stand; Angel & bird figurines; German pitcher; Tupperware; canister set; phone; lamps; electric appliances; cups; dishes; pots; pans; casseroles; crock bowl; books; Holiday decorations; kitchen appliances; lamps; Angel wind chime; bedding; kitchen items; steam cleaner; luggage; over bed table; CD racks; stereo & speakers; flower pots; lighted Christmas deer &other decorations; toys; upright Dirt Devil; air purifier; sewing notions; ironing board; VCR case & tapes; material; Yard Machine push mower with bagger; weedeater; battery charger; drills; hand & garden tools; gas can; nut/bolt bin; organizer; lots miscellaneous.

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ANTIQUE AUCTION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13 — 10:00 AM

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

SALINA, KANSAS (From Ohio street use Midway street)

SIGNS, GAS GLOBES, GLASS & COLLECTABLES
10 gas pump globes inc.: Red Crown red, white & blue; 40 gas & automotive porcelain & tin signs inc.: Phillips 66, tire, other; gas station organizer; White Eagle containers (insignias, logos, ink blotters, toy station); dealer license tags; Sinclair padlocks; Wilson ladies golf clubs (Babe Diedrich Zaharian"; North Western Morris Ill match box; Indian blanket & baskets; Buckeye cast iron seat; Breyer Gene Autry Champion Wonder horse; Winchester spade; walnut lumber; wains coat pcs; 29 Chev car parts; GLASS inc.: Nesbett drug store dispenser; Cherry Smash drug store dispenser; repo Coca Cola dispenser; brides basket; Lefton pieces; assortment Cape Cod; cookie jars; Christmas items; other glass; dial telephones; 50 collectable prints & posters (Shirley Temple, Elvis, Jackson 5, Tammy Wynette, George Jones, other); oak pattern back rocker; oak child's rocker; organ stool w/claw feet; white painted Hoosier cabinet w/flour bin; other collectibles.

Note: We are starting 2013 with a very large quality auction. This is a private North Central collection, they have been collecting for over 50 years. Check our web site for pictures at www.thummelauction.com.

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96 JD 8400 MFWD Tractor
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JD 637 Wheat-Land 29' 3" Hydr Fold Disk
(2) JD 885 12R30" Flat Fold Cultivators
95 Freightliner FLC112 Day Cab Semi Truck
11 Timpte 4266 Grain Trailer
(2) JD 1590 15' Grain Drills
JD 8870 Bareback 4X4 Tractor
Case IH 9130 Tractor, 4x4
JD 4050 MFWD Tractor
JD 7210 MFWD Tractor
Cat 65 Track Tractor
Ford 8600 2WD Tractor
(2) JD 4455 2WD Tractors
(2) JD 4440 Tractors
JD 4450 Tractor
Willmar 8100 Sprayer
09 Spread-All TR22T Manure Spreader
09 Sioux Automation 5220 DM900006 Vertical Beater Manure Spreader
08 Sioux Automation 5220 Dm900006 E Vertical Beater Manure Spreader
09 McFarlane Rd-4030-Rb Reel Disk
03 Case 6591T Power Unit
99 Cummins Power Unit
00 Freightliner FL112 Truck
(2) 06 Wilson DWBT-600 Belt Trailers
98 International 4700 Bale Mover Truck
12 Wilson DWH 550 Aluminum Grain Trailer
Case 2294 MFWD Tractor
Case 770 2WD Tractor
03 New Holland TS110 MFWD Tractor w/Loader

4 Combines, 27 Tractors, 6 Semi Trucks, 8 Straight Trucks, 2 Dump Trucks, 4 Wheel Loaders, Forage Harvestor, 7 Grain Carts, 7 Manure Spreaders, 9 Planters, Tillage Equipment, Trailers, & much more!

The next BIGIRON.com auction is on January 16!
Do you have equipment to sell? Call your local rep today, 1-800-937-3558.

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K-State to host agriculture lease workshops in seven locations

To help ensure that landlords and tenants understand the complexities in agricultural leases, Kansas State University is hosting seven workshops to address the issues.

The day-long workshops are designed to help landlords and tenants understand different rental arrangements, including cash rent, share rent and the recently-popular flex-rent arrangements in which rental rates can "flex" depending on prices, yields or both.

Dates, locations and contact information for each location include:

• Jan. 10 — Rush Center — Jared Petersilie — 785-222-2710 or jaredp11@ksu.edu.

• Jan. 10 — Dighton — Jared Petersilie — 785-222-2710 or jaredp11@ksu.edu.

• Jan 15 —Wichita — Gary Cramer — 316-660-0100 or gcramer@ksu.edu.

• Jan. 16 — Junction City — Chuck Otte — 785-238-4161 or cotte@ksu.edu.

• Jan. 17 — Hutchinson — Cody Barilla — 620-662-2371 or cbarilla@ksu.edu.

• Jan. 22 — Scott City — John Beckman — 620-872-2930 or jbeckman@ksu.edu or Allen Baker — 620-375-2724 or abaker@ksu.edu.

• Jan. 23 — WaKeeney — Julie Niehage — 785-671-3245 or julienie@ksu.edu.

The program includes several presentations by K-State Research and Extension agricultural economists, Troy Dumler and Mykel Taylor:

• Introduction to Rental Arrangements;

• Ethics of Leasing;

• Using Excel Spreadsheets; and

• Using KSU-Lease.xls.

Lunch is included in the registration.

More information, including downloadable brochures with details for each site, is available at www.agmanager.info and click on 2012-2013 Lease Workshops or contact Rich Llewelyn at 785-532-1504 or rvl@ksu.edu.

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Reduce your cow costs, increase your revenue

By Miranda Reiman

Property taxes don't mind if your cows are black or white or red. Ranches must have fences, pickups and equipment, regardless of what the calves weigh at weaning.

"Fixed cost doesn't care whether you've got 400 cows, 200 cows, 60 cows or two cows. It's going to be the same," says Stan Bevers, Texas A&M University beef economist. "The only way to drive down the impact is to get more cows."

As the industry anxiously awaits a drought reversal and herd rebuilding, many experts say now is the time to analyze overall carrying expenses.

"One of the problems that we run into is that guys don't calculate their cow costs, so things get out of perspective," says Jim McGrann, emeritus ranch management economist at Texas A&M. "They will try to save in areas where it's not going to make that big of a difference."

McGrann implemented the management program know as Standardized Performance Analysis (SPA) in the 1990s, to help producers benchmark their herd against others. Bevers now manages that program, which shows an average annual cost of $590.85 for a cow in 2012.

"I started in 1989. Then, the average cost was about a dollar per day, so we haven't quite doubled, but it's getting close," he says.

Each year, he adds, the largest components are labor, management, depreciation and feed.

It's important to keep vehicle and equipment cots in check, McGrann says. "But everything else is more of a question of execution of a good plan and watching how they spend their money."

A key is keeping a focus on reproduction.

"Cost control is more closely related to making sure they don't hurt reproduction," he says. "For example, if they don't feed right, they are going to hurt reproduction. If they don't get high calf crops relative to their exposed females, they can never have a low cost operation."

Scott Brown, University of Missouri ag economist, points to a tool developed by colleague Brent Carpenter that is designed to help determine what one could pay for a female.

"Losing a calf in one of her first three or four years reduces what you should pay for her by more than $600," he says, noting that predictable calving-ease genetics may provide some risk protection.

"If you're not a cost-effective producer, you're not going to be in business regardless," Brown says. "But many of those costs you don't have much control over because of your cow choice. I think there is a lot more gain to be had on the revenue side than the expense side."

When rain comes, the decisions made in the rebuilding process could have a huge impact on future production.

"Really the market is telling you that you have to have cattle that will grade and yield and be taken to a pretty heavy weight," McGrann says.

That all starts with genetics, and better bulls come with a higher price tag. But McGrann says that shouldn't scare a producer.

"When I'm purchasing a bull, it will have an economic life of anywhere from three to five years," he says. "When you put it in the proper perspective—what does it means in terms of depreciation per female serviced—it's really a low cost number."

A $3,100 bull servicing 25 cows per year for five years averages out to a $45.49 annual service cost per cow exposed. That's just 7.6% of total cow costs. Spend another $400 on a bull and that number increases less than $4, at 8.2% of total cow costs. Increasing by $1,000 to buy the bull for $4,100 would figure out to a $55.29 service charge, or 9.2% of cow costs.

That's holding everything else equal. What if those genetics are more expensive because they're more reliable, more efficient or help cut costs in other ways?

Looking at the revenue side helps prove the value.

"What's it really mean if I get another 10 or 20 pounds of weaning weight on those calves?" Brown asks. In terms of cow costs, the Missouri calculator says you could pay $175 more for a cow if she weans 20-pound heavier calves.

"The chance to improve genetics in your herd should be something that everyone is looking at," Brown says. In his definition, that would fall into several categories: mothering ability and calving ease, growth and carcass quality.

"Bulls that are going to have maternal traits would be a big piece of that," says James Henderson, of Bradley 3 Ranch in the lower Texas panhandle. The seedstock Angus breeder has been focused on a cow that works in the mesquite brush environment they call home.

Structural soundness is a bare minimum, but after that he suggests commercial Angus producers look at benchmarking tools like the SPA program they've participated in since its inception, as well as recent advancements like the GeneMax DNA test from Certified Angus Beef.

"We've found that our high marbling cattle are our easiest keeping cattle," Henderson says. "I think marbling may be a more valuable reproductive trait than it is a carcass trait."

When he hears people assigning a negative correlation to the two, he wonders if they're confusing marbling and milk.

"In the Angus breed, there are a lot of high-marbling cattle that are also high milk—it's pretty easy to misread which one of those traits is costing you money," he says. "High-milk cows are going to be much more expensive to maintain and rebreed, but high-marbling cows, in my experience, are the ones that survive in tough times."

McGrann says the records don't dispute that: "I've probably done as much individual producer analysis as anybody in the country, from a business perspective, and I've found no relationship between quality of the calf and cost of production."

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Brent & Amy Burns	Oskaloosa	11 blk	499@180.00
Dale Steinlage	Corning	3 blk	541@165.50

FEEDER STEERS — 550-775 LBS

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Jim Bowhay	Netawaka	3 blk	640@157.50
Dale Steinlage	Corning	4 bwf	665@152.00
Dale Steinlage	Corning	7 blk	732@150.75
Caleb Meisinger	Marion	4 blk	755@149.75

HEIFER CALVES — 300-550 LBS

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Mark Meisinger	Marion	8 blk	489@159.00
Brian Ribelin	Mayetta	3 xbred	358@158.50
Brian Ribelin	Mayetta	3 blk	305@156.00
Brent & Amy Burns	Oskaloosa	8 blk	484@155.00
Brent & Amy Burns	Oskaloosa	3 blk	465@155.00
Donald Marrs	Shawnee	8 herford	321@155.00
AJ Svoboda	Ramona	3 blk	428@151.00
Steve Mayberry	Rossville	5 blk	485@144.50
Donald Marrs	Shawnee	5 herford	407@142.00

FEEDER HEIFERS — 550-750 LBS

Jim Bowhay	Netawaka	8 blk	608@144.00
Dale Steinlage	Corning	3 mix	575@141.50
Jack Himpel Jr.	Tonganoxie	3 blk	643@140.50
Dale Steinlage	Corning	8 bwf	638@140.00
Mark Anderes	Hope	7 xbred	650@137.00
Mark Anderes	Hope	6 xbred	730@135.00

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Ralph Brooks	Manhattan	1 blk	1155@118.00
Frank Farms	Westmoreland	1 xbred	995@117.00
Mike Ehrlich	Marion	1 herford	1095@107.50
Frank Farms	Westmoreland	3 blk	1141@100.00
Brian Still	Ogden	1 blk	1205@99.50
KSU AS&I Dairy	Manhattan	1 holstein	1120@87.00
KSU AS&I Dairy	Manhattan	1 holstein	1190@87.00
Cross Country Genetics	Manhattan	1 blk	1655@83.00
Brian Still	Ogden	1 blk	1080@82.00
Mike Ehrlich	Marion	1 blk	1300@79.75
Gene Alexander	Topeka	1 herford	1290@79.50
Bob Ehrlich	Marion	1 blk	1260@79.00
Troy Marple	Westmoreland	1 herford	1630@78.25
Bob Ehrlich	Marion	1 blk	1210@78.00
Ron Abitz	Wheaton	1 xbred	1395@77.75
Kyle Rootring	Olsburg	1 blk	1910@77.25
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Kevin Vesterberg	Miltonvale	1 blk	1420@76.25
Mark Strathman	Goff	1 blk	1285@75.75
Alan Swenson	Clifton	3 blk	1450@75.75
Frank Farms	Westmoreland	1 blk	1510@75.50
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Ron Abitz	Wheaton	1 blk	1530@73.75
Frank Farms	Westmoreland	5 blk	1536@73.50
KSU AS&I Dairy	Manhattan	1 holstein	1840@72.25
KSU AS&I Dairy	Manhattan	1 holstein	1720@72.00
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KSU AS&I Dairy	Manhattan	1 holstein	1785@68.25
KSU AS&I Dairy	Manhattan	1 holstein	1540@68.00
AJ Svoboda	Ramona	1 blk	1350@67.25
KSU AS&I Dairy	Manhattan	1 holstein	1525@65.50
KSU AS&I Dairy	Manhattan	1 holstein	1750@65.00
KSU AS&I Dairy	Manhattan	1 holstein	1660@65.00
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110 Choice Reputation Angus strs & hfrs, age & source verified, Phizer Select vac. program, weaned 100 days, 600-750 lbs.
100 Choice Reputation Angus strs & hfrs, weaned 65 days, 2 rds shots, 550-700 lbs.
100 blk & bwf strs & hfrs, weaned, all shots, 600-700 lbs.
80 Choice Reputation blk & bwf strs & hfrs, weaned 5 weeks, 575-625 lbs.
55 Choice Reputation blk & bwf strs & hfrs, weaned, 2 rds shots, 450-550 lbs.
55 Choice Angus strs, weaned 65 days, 2 rds shots, 650-750 lbs.
47 blk strs & hfrs, weaned, 2 rds shots, age & source verified, 650-800 lbs.
40 Angus Limo X strs, 2 rds shots, bunk broke, 500-650 lbs.
35 Choice Reputation Angus strs & hfrs, longtime weaned, 2 complete rds shots, 400-500 lbs.
30 blk & red strs & hfrs, 600-750 lbs.
24 blk strs & hfrs, weaned, shots, 400-550 lbs.
21 Red Angus Char-x strs & hfrs, w/Allied Access Age & Source verified tags, 2 complete rds of shots, 675-800 lbs.
20 blk & bwf strs & hfrs, weaned, 650-800 lbs.
15 Holstein strs, 600-650 lbs.
15 blk strs & hfrs, 550-600 lbs.
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EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FRIDAY, JANUARY 11TH:

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96 Choice Reputation Angus & Char strs & hfrs, weaned 115 days, 2 complete rds shots, no implants, 700-850 lbs.
70 Choice Reputation Hereford Feeder strs, 800-950 lbs.
60 Choice Reputation Yearling Angus strs & hfrs, 800-900 lbs.
54 Fancy Hereford strs, 90 days weaned, 2 rds shots, 500-600 lbs.
10 Hereford hfrs, 700-750 lbs.

SPECIAL COW SALE JANUARY 16TH:
STARTING AT 11:00 AM

60 Big Fancy blk first calf heifers, bred to easy calving Angus bull for Feb. 20 calving
50 Big Choice blk first calf heifers, bred to low birth weight blk Hereford bull, due to start calving Feb. 20. All shots including Scour-Guard.
35 Big Fancy Red Angus & Red Angus X first calf heifers, bred to easy calving Angus bulls for Feb. 20 calving
25 Big Fancy OCV Angus first calf heifers, AI bred to low birth weight Right Answer Angus bull for Feb. 11 calving- cleaned up with low birth weight Angus bull. Heifers have had all shots including 1 Scourguard. These heifers are all sired by 0669 Bando.
24 blk & bwf Montana Origin OCV first calf heifers, bred to easy calving Angus bull for Feb. 5 calves.
16 blk & bwf cows, 6 yrs to short & solid, bred for March/April calves
15 Big Fancy Angus homeraised first calf heifers, bred to low birth weight Angus bull for Feb. 10 calving
12 Angus cows, 5-7 yrs old, bred to blk Hereford bull for Feb. 20 calving
10 Hereford cows, 3 yrs old, w/bwf calves by side. Worked & tagged.
8 mixed cows, 5-8 yrs old, w/calves by side, running back Angus bull 45 days

If you have any consignments for this special sale, please give us a call so we may advertise them for you

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More than $13,000 in scholarships awarded to Kansas youth by KLF

Eleven scholarship winners for the 2012-13 school year were recognized during the annual Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) Convention November 30 in Wichita. A total of $13,500 will be presented by the Kansas Livestock Foundation (KLF).

KLA scholarship winners include, back row, from left: Luke Bellar, Howard; Ira Parsons, Leavenworth; Cody Jensen, Courtland; Trenton Blythe, White City; Front row: Taylor Harms, Lincolnville; Chandra Devine, Seward; and Karl Clawson, Englewood. Not pictured are Michelle Colgan, Lawrence; Kelsey Schnoebelen, Lewis; Tanner Rayl, Hutchinson; and Garrett Kays, Weir.

Luke Bellar has been awarded the $2,500 Cattlemen's Scholarship from GoBob Pipe & Steel and KLF. Bellar is the son of Mike and Peggy Bellar of Howard. He is attending Fort Hays State University, majoring in agribusiness and animal science. In the future, he plans to return to the family operation. This scholarship is presented to a student entering or returning to a Kansas community or senior college, and pursuing a degree in agriculture or a related field.

Michelle Colgan and Kelsey Schnoebelen each has been chosen to receive a $1,500 Ralgro Wheels for Bucks scholarship from Merck Animal Health and KLF. This award recognizes Kansas State University veterinary school students with a career goal of being a large animal veterinarian. Colgan is the daughter of Marilyn Colgan of Lawrence. She is a fourth-year veterinary student and plans to establish her own mixed-animal practice in rural Kansas. Schnoebelen, a second-year veterinary school student, is the daughter of Mica and Sherrie Schnoebelen from Lewis. She intends to work as a veterinarian in a rural practice in Kansas following graduation.

Four Kansas students each has been awarded, through KLF, $1,000 Wheels for Bucks Scholarships. Trenton Blythe is the son of Duane Blythe and Debbie Lyons-Blythe from White City. He began the Wildlife and Outdoor Enterprise Management program at Kansas State University this fall. Chandra Devine, daughter of Richard and Laura Devine of Seward, is a junior at Fort Hays State University. Devine currently is majoring in beef cattle management. Taylor Harms is the daughter of Mark and Kim Harms from Lincolnville. She is attending K-State and majoring in ag communications. Ira Parsons, son of Rodney and Amy Parsons from Leavenworth, is a sophomore at Allen County Community College. Parsons is majoring in feed science.

The recipient of the $1,000 Old District 4 Scholarship, administered by KLF, is Carl Clawson. He is the son of David and Jeanne Clawson from Englewood. Clawson is a freshman majoring in agriculture business at K-State. This scholarship is awarded to a student whose home is in Clark, Comanche, Edwards, Ford, Gray, Hodgeman, Kiowa, Meade, Ness or Pawnee counties who attends a Kansas college and is pursuing a degree in agriculture or a related field.

The $1,000 Glenn & Clyde Lindstrom Scholarship has been awarded through KLF to Tanner Rayl. Rayl is the son of Dennis and Shirley Rayl from Hutchinson. He is a junior at K-State majoring in preveterinary medicine. This scholarship is awarded to any student of sophomore level or above attending a Kansas junior or senior college and pursuing a degree in agriculture. Preference is given to students residing within the boundaries of Unified School District 400 in northern McPherson and southern Saline counties.

Cody Jensen and Garrett Kays each has been selected to receive a $1,000 "Youth in Agriculture" scholarship from KLF. Jensen is the son of Kirk and Stephanie Jensen from Courtland. He is a sophomore at Butler Community College majoring in animal science. Kays is the son of Kelly and Connie Kays from Weir. He is attending K-State and majoring in agribusiness. Funded by the KLF Club Calf Sale held during the Kansas Junior Livestock Show, these scholarships also recognize students entering or returning to a Kansas junior or senior college and pursing a degree in agriculture or a related field.

KLF was established in 1983 to operate solely and exclusively for charitable, scientific and educational purposes. For information about KLF scholarship opportunities or to receive an application, contact the foundation at 6031 S.W. 37th St., Topeka, KS 66614 or e-mail letty@kla.org.

Tuttle Creek Lake hosts annual Eagle Day January 5

The eagles are landing around Manhattan. With the arrival of winter, migratory bald eagles have been working their way south and passing through Kansas.

To offer the opportunity to see our national bird in its native habitat, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Tuttle Creek Lake has scheduled its annual Eagle Day for Saturday, Jan. 5, 2013. The program will begin at 9 a.m. and run until approximately noon.

The program is free and open to the public. All participants should meet at 9 a.m. in the large assembly room at the Manhattan Fire Station, 2000 Denison. Dan Mulhern, biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will offer a short presentation about bald eagles migrating through and nesting in Kansas. Pat Silovsky, director of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism's Milford Nature Center, will feature several live raptors in her discussion of eagles and other birds of prey.

Following the presentations at the fire station, members of the Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society will lead participants on a bus tour through areas near Tuttle Creek Lake, with the goal of watching bald eagles in the wild.

Participants should dress appropriately for the weather, and everyone is encouraged to bring binoculars, spotting scopes, and cameras.

Tuttle Creek Lake's Eagle Day 2013 is sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Tuttle Creek Lake, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, and the Manhattan Convention and Visitors Bureau. Bus service and refreshments are sponsored by the Tuttle Creek Lake Association.

For more information, contact Steve Prockish at (785) 539-8511, extension 3167.

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Manage alfalfa stands through the winter

By Scott Gordon,
Wildcat Extension District

Alfalfa, when managed correctly, is a potentially profitable crop for southeast Kansas. Alfalfa requires a great deal of management to be successful. Even while the alfalfa is dormant, we can be managing for next year's crop. Soil fertility and weed control are two of the areas we can work on this winter.

Now is the time to soil test for the alfalfa's 2013 fertility needs. Phosphorus and potassium are the two elements that are normally added to established alfalfa stands. Soil testing is available through the Extension office at a cost of about $7.00 per sample. The soil does not need to be completely dry in order to take a routine soil sample. Contact the Extension office for more information and soil sample bags.

Nitrogen applications should not be made to established alfalfa stands. Legumes, such as alfalfa, fix enough nitrogen to meet the needs of the growing plant through bacteria present in the nodules on the roots. Nitrogen fertilizer applied to well-nodulated alfalfa will only stimulate grassy and broadleaf weeds and may reduce stand longevity.

Broadcasting phosphorus has proven effective on soils low in phosphorus because alfalfa has roots near the soil surface. Topdressing is normally done in the late fall to early spring. Little difference exits between liquids or solids, or ortho or polyphosphates as phosphorus sources for alfalfa. Use of straight phosphate sources (0-46-0) over ammonium phosphate is preferred to minimize weed competition. However, the availability of straight phosphates is very limited, and the use of ammonium phosphates (18-46-0, 10-34-0) as phosphate sources for alfalfa is perfectly acceptable.

Potassium removal of alfalfa is quite high when compared with grain crops. Soil testing is essential in determining potassium need and rate of application. Application times and methods are similar to those for phosphorus and in most cases these nutrients are applied together. Potassium fertilizer sources are considered equal for supplying potassium. It also appears that applying potassium-chloride (0-0-60) each year may help to extend stand longevity.

Weeds generally are not a serious problem the first few years after the successful establishment of a well-fertilized, insect-free alfalfa stand. As the alfalfa stand ages, however, the population often thins, and weeds begin to invade open areas. Both summer and winter annual weeds can be a problem. Use of herbicides can help improve the quality of a thin, weedy stand of alfalfa but it will not rejuvenate the crop.

Herbicides used in established alfalfa can be divided into two groups, depending on application and timing. At this time we will focus on dormant-season treatments which are applied during the winter when the alfalfa is not actively growing. The other group is postemergence herbicides which are applied during the growing season.

There are several dormant-season treatments available that will control winter annual weeds such as cheatgrass and mustards, as well as provide some residual weed control. These treatments can be applied to established alfalfa any time after the alfalfa ceases growth in the fall until it resumes active growth in the spring. Residual activity depends on the herbicide, rate of application and precipitation.

Dormant-season treatments applied after regrowth occurs in the spring may cause unacceptable crop injury. Rotation to other crops is restricted for up to two years following application of some herbicides. Be sure to read pesticide labels carefully.

Although the first cutting of alfalfa for 2013 is still several months down the road, it's not too early to start managing for a good crop. Proper fertilization and timely weed control are two areas we can manage now to help Mother Nature produce us a successful alfalfa crop next year.

For more information feel free to contact Wildcat Extension District agent Scott Gordon in Independence by calling (620) 331-2690 or by email at sgordon@ksu.edu. You may also contact Keith Martin in Altamont by calling (620) 784-5337 or by email at rkmartin@ksu.edu. We also offer programs in Family Consumer Science, 4-H and Youth, and horticulture. Program information and additional contacts can be found on our website www.wildcatdistrict.ksu.edu.

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07 Bobcat SSL S330,
772 hrs,
E/N 1053177 $33,100

11 Bobcat SSL S750,
395 hrs,
E/N 1054060 $37,250

08 Bobcat CTL T190,
1403 hrs,
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Earlybird registration ends soon for Precision Ag Conference

The Kansas Ag Research and Technology Association (KARTA) would like to announce a discounted registration option for the 16th Annual Precision Agricultural Technologies Conference, being held January 17-18, 2013 in Salina. This event brings hundreds of agricultural producers and industry leaders for a two-day interactive workshop on the ever-changing precision agriculture industry. Anyone who signs up on or before January 10th can receive a significant discount on their conference registration. Forms postmarked by the 10th will automatically receive a $50 discount, bringing the conference price to $175 per person (which includes meals and refreshments).

The funds generated through the association dues and conference registrations are used to provide grants to facilitate on-farm research projects and instructional workshops on the hardware and software necessary to conduct agricultural research trials.

Those in attendance at the conference will hear presentations from dynamic speakers on a wide variety of topics dealing with precision agriculture. The two-day event also includes vendor displays, the KARTA Annual Meeting, research presentations from grant recipients, and an interactive evening discussion that is always an attendee favorite.

"We have big plans for growing the statewide conference this year," says KARTA board president Dietrich Kastens. "In addition to the line-up of speakers addressing cutting edge developments in the precision agriculture industry, we have added two new elements that will hopefully bring in new participants and broaden our audience."

A new subsidized student registration option will cater to agricultural students at all of the state's post-secondary educational institutions. A discounted registration of only $50 will allow students at all levels of their education to network with producers and industry leaders. "We think it is important that students have the opportunity to participate in this growing event," Kastens says. "We want the next generation of farmers to gain insight on their field of work from first-hand producers who are on the cutting edge of precision agriculture."

The second element that has been added to the conference is a new online registration form. Anyone who signs up for the conference by downloading the registration form from www.kartaonline.org can indicate on their form that they would like to pay with a credit card. After they mail in the form, they will be contacted by email with a link to an online payment platform that they can conveniently access at any time.

The KARTA Precision Agricultural Technologies Conference will take place at the Ramada Conference Center in Salina on Thursday and Friday, January 17-18, 2013. Registration for the two-day conference will be accepted after the January 10th deadline for $225 per person, with meals and refreshments included. There is also a $50 discount for KARTA members, and new members can always sign up on their conference registration form.

For more information about KARTA's past research projects or to download a registration form for the winter conference, visit www.kartaonline.org. Be sure to follow KARTA on Twitter and Facebook.

The early spring heifer calf champion at the North American International Livestock Expo was CF Countess 252 TP X ET, exhibited by Cole A. Clanton, Bucyrus.

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DODGE RAM SLT
2006 ~~$9,995~~ * $7,995
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CHEVY 2500HD
2007 $9,995
Reg. Cab, 4x4, SLT, 6.0 Vortec

CHEVY SILVERADO 2500HD
2004 ~~$10,988~~ * $9,995
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CHEVY SILVERADO 2500HD
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CHEVY SILVERADO 2500HD
2005 $10,995
Reg. Cab, 4x4, 6.0 Vortec, AT

CHEVY SILVERADO 2500HD
2009 ~~$16,988~~ * $12,995
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2008 ~~$16,988~~* $14,995
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DODGE RAM 2500
2003 $14,988
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CHEVY SILVERADO 2500HD
2010 ~~$18,988~~ * $16,995
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CHEVY SILVERAGO 2500HD
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GMC SIERRA 2500HD
2009 $17,988
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CHEVY SILVERADO 2500HD
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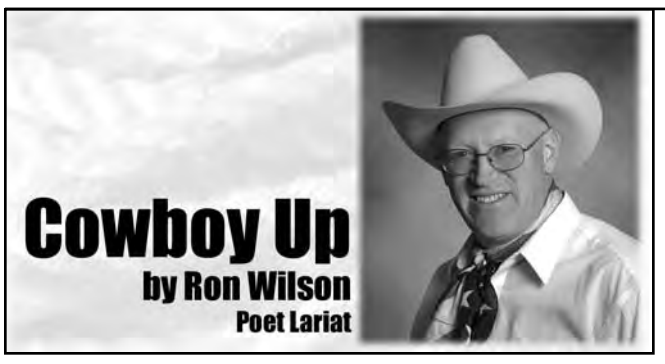

Cold Horses

What did you get your horse for Christmas?

Well, maybe he didn't exactly write a letter to Santa Claus, but there are some things which are important to provide for your horse in winter time. Most of the winter care factors are common sense, such as providing extra hay and making sure that your horses have protection from the wind and moisture.

One interesting question is the use of horse blankets. To blanket or not to blanket? I've noticed that some of my neighbors have horses with and without blankets in the same pen. How important is it to blanket a horse?

I read about a woman who grew up in a horse family. They would religiously blanket their horses. At the first cold sign of a cold snap, this family would begin the daily ritual of removing the blanket for grooming and riding and then putting the blanket back on once the horse was cool and dry. The woman's mom faithfully blanketed the horses, even though this family lived in south Texas – not exactly the cold weather capital of the free world.

That woman and her husband later moved to Michigan, where they encountered major cold weather. Her mother shipped two horses and six blankets to them in Michigan. But they found that their horses thrived in the cold weather, even without the blankets. So the woman and her husband vowed not to breathe a word of this to her mother, but eventually sold the blankets. By that time, the squirrels had used the blankets in which to hide their walnuts.

"Looking back, I have to chuckle at what we considered 'cold weather'," the woman wrote. "I wonder what our horse thought about all the fuss."

For most of us, our horses will be fine if we follow the simple common sense guidelines of winter horse care: Good feed, water, and shelter. If we don't artificially extend the hours of daylight with lights on in the barn, the horse will grow a winter coat. The hair follicles will naturally fluff up and provide the horse protection. Of course, that means the horse may look pretty shaggy, but if you clip for cosmetic reasons then you might need to blanket the horse.

So what did you get your horse for Christmas? I didn't get mine a horse blanket, but I did promise him that he would get good hay, water, and shelter from the wind every day. He didn't complain – but you ought to see the size of his Christmas stockin'! Happy Trails!

The Night Before Christmas — Cowboy Style

(with apologies to Clement C. Moore)

By Ron Wilson, Poet Lariat

Twas the night before Christmas, and in the bunkhouse,
This cowboy was snoring while dreaming of cows.
My stockin's had holes, they were tossed by the bunk,
With my boots and my belt and assorted pocket junk.
When out in the barnyard, there rose such a noise,
It would roust out me or any of the other cowboys.
I woke with a start, gave my arms a quick shove,
And then hit my head on the bunk up above.
Then I ran to the window, looked out toward the barn,
And saw what would make an incredible yarn.
For I saw an old wrangler, a-dressed all in red,
With a team, wagon and toys in the wagonbed.
I went to the door. He said, "Howdy" to me,
And went about makin' his toy delivery.
He climbed up the ranchhouse and down the chimney he slid,
With a big bag of toys for the rancher's kids.
I watched from the window and stared in awe,
At the amazing old wrangler I saw.
His eyes, how they twinkled. His white beard so sleek,
With a bulge where he had a tobacco chaw in his cheek.
He put presents in the stockin's and under the tree,
Including a brand new lariat for me.
Then he went to the wagon and picked up the reins,
And took off across the wide open plains.
And I heard him exclaim, as his wagon set sail,
"Merry Christmas to all, and to you, Happy Trails."

www.ronscowboypoetry.com © Copyright 2012-13

Kansas Junior Swine Producer Day set for Feb. 16 in Manhattan

Kansas State University will host Kansas Junior Swine Producer Day on Feb. 16 at Weber Arena in Manhattan.

"We're planning a fun-filled day of activities where youth, parents, swine project leaders and others can increase their knowledge and experience of swine production and management practices," said Kristine Clowers, youth livestock coordinator in K-State's Department of Animal Sciences and Industry. More than $600 in prizes will be given away.

Kyle Baade, herdsman for Penner Genetics, Plymouth, Neb. will be the featured speaker. Penner Genetics specializes in purebred breeding stock and high quality club pigs. Presentations will also be given by K-State faculty and graduate students.

The day begins with registration at 9:00 a.m. Educational sessions include:

- Selecting Your Youth Project;
- Skillathon (non-competitive);
- Nutrition of Your Show Pig;
- Educational Materials for Your Swine Project and Livestock Nominations;
- Youth Pork Quality Assurance (PQA)+ Certification Session (optional);
- Pig Care: From Purchase to Show Day; and
- Hands-On Showmanship.

The day will end with a final questions and wrap-up session.

The cost to attend is $10 per person if paid by Feb. 1 and $15 after that date. All participants receive a K-State Show Pig Guide, Skillathon practice, T-shirt, and a complimentary lunch.

More information is available online at www.asi.ksu.edu/p.aspx?tabid=58 or by contacting Clowers at 785-532-1264 or clowers@ksu.edu.

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SELL HOGS 1ST & 3RD
WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

LMA

We would like to wish everyone a very Happy & Prosperous New Year!

CONSIGNMENTS FOR JANUARY 2:
Weather Permitting

- 18 mix strs & hfrs, 400-600 lbs.
- 14 mix strs & hfrs, 500-650 lbs.
- 60 mix heifers, 750-800 lbs.
- 56 mix steers, 900-925 lbs.
- 60 mix steers, 850-875 lbs.

More cattle by sale time!

CONSIGNMENTS FOR JANUARY 9TH:

- 40 mostly blk strs & hfrs, 500-650 lbs.
- 45 blk strs & hfrs, 550-700 lbs., weaned, all shots
- 72 mostly blk strs & hfrs, 500-650 lbs., weaned & shots
- 60 black steers, 825-850 lbs.
- 62 mix steers, 850 lbs.
- 62 black steers, 825-850 lbs.
- 64 mostly black heifers, 800-850 lbs.
- 60 mostly black heifers, 800-825 lbs.
- 62 mostly black steers, 800-825 lbs.
- 110 mix steers, 875-900 lbs.
- 60 mix steers, 900-925 lbs.

More cattle by sale time!

Special at the Cafe this week: Hot Beef Sandwich, Potatoes & Gravy

Many more consignments by sale time. Call in your consignments now for maximum advertising. For more information on any of these cattle, call Herington Livestock or Bill Mathias, 785-258-0102. SEE YOU AT THE SALE!

KFRM AM 550, Every Wed., 8:00 a.m.

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Bob Kickhaefer • Cell 785-258-4188 Dave Bures - 402-766-3743

AUCTION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5
10:00 AM
2323 North Jackson
JUNCTION CITY, KANSAS

FURNITURE
Couch & Loveseat, Lane Recliner, Oak Sofa Table & Coffee Table, Oak Lamp Table, 2 Occ. Chairs (one w/Queen Ann Legs), Child's Oak Rocker, Oak Table w/4 Chairs, Oak Kitchen Hutch, Oak Buffet, Cherry Kitchen Cabinet, Walnut Dining Room Table w/6 Chairs, Mahogany Drop Front Secretary, Drop Leaf Table, Queen Size Bed on Hollywood Frame, double dresser, Blonde Oak Chest of Drawers & Vanity, Gentleman's Chest, Cedar Chest, Mahogany 3 Drawer Chest, Kitchen Table, Electric Lift Chair, Book Cases, metal stand, humidifier, microwave, card table w/chairs, older wall hanging mirror, TV stand, 2 table lamps, several older floor lamps, Singer Feather Light sewing machine, Emerson 32" Flat Screen TV, Invision 19" Flat Screen TV, GE microwave, Maytag washer & dryer, GE 14 cu. ft. freezer.

GUNS, GLASSWARE & COLLECTIBLES
Eurogrms of America 50 Cal. Black Powder Rifle SN 29741, A.S.M. 44 Cal Black Powder Pistol Made in Italy SN E71845 No 10 of 10, Fort Riley, KS, Remington 870 Express Magnum 20 GA. Shot Gun SN B468156U, Remington Sportsman 12 12 GA Pump Shot Gun for 2 3/4 or 3" Shells MOD Choke SN W182442M, Ithaca Model 37 12 GA Shot Gun w/2 3/4" Chamber Full Choke SN 559915, Ruger Model 10/22 .22 Cal LR Rifle SN 257-26267 Fort Riley Special Edition 10 of 50, J.C. Stevens Crack-Shot .22 Cal Rifle SN D747, Gamo Ducks Unlimited Air (Pellet) Gun, Cadet Delta Cal 45 (177) Pellet Made In Spain SN 04-1C-106243-00, Fine & Lots Of Custom Jewelry, Crystal Spooner, Pink Depression Sandwich Plate, Several Pieces of Bavarian China Tea Sets, Punch Bowl w/Pedestal & Cups, Crystal Glasses, Nortika China, 3-Hummel Figurines, Figurines Made in England, Red Wing Crocks (5 Gal & 6 Gal), Crock Bowl, Green Crock Bowl, Weller's Pink Vase, McCoy Planters, Crock Cookie Jar, Pittsburg (3 Crocks), Mail Pouch Advertising Thermometer, Indian Picture, Edison Records, Cherry Pitter, Bone Handle Carving Set, Many Older Primitive Kitchen Tools, Gordon Sterling Flatware (8 Place), Wash Boards, 2 Small Fur Coats, Nippon Doll, Hubley Metal Motorcycle, Arcade Metal Truck.

MISCELLANEOUS
7x50 Bushnell Sportsman Optics Binoculars, records, shredder (NIB), new kerosene heater, portable fan, trombone, reel to reel 8 track player w/Sony speakers, flatware, cookbooks, tools & tool box, greeting cards, lots of religious books, Bibles (some NIB) & pictures, tablecloths w/napkins, embroidered tea towels, several new blankets, new full size sheets & pillow cases, Corning Ware, mixing bowls, elec. hedge trimmer, shower chair, alum. step ladder, extension ladder, exercise bike, **& MANY, MANY MORE ITEMS TOO NUMEROUS TO LIST.**

TERMS: Cash, check or credit card. Not responsible for accidents. Lunch available.

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AUCTIONS EVERY MONDAY & THURSDAY

Selling Hogs & Cattle every Monday

Preconditioned Calf Sales:
- Tuesday, January 8th
- Tuesday, February 5th

All Tuesday Auctions start at 12 noon

Cow Sale Dates:
- Tuesday, January 15th
- Tuesday, February 19th
- Tuesday, March 19th
- Tuesday, April 16th
- Tuesday, May 7th

All Tuesday Auctions start at 12 Noon

No Sales to Report this Week

Livestock Commission Co., Inc.
Salina, KANSAS
SALE BARN PHONE: 785-825-0211

MONDAY — HOGS & CATTLE

Hogs sell at 10:30 a.m. Cattle at 12:00 Noon. Selling calves and yearlings first, followed by Packer cows and bulls.

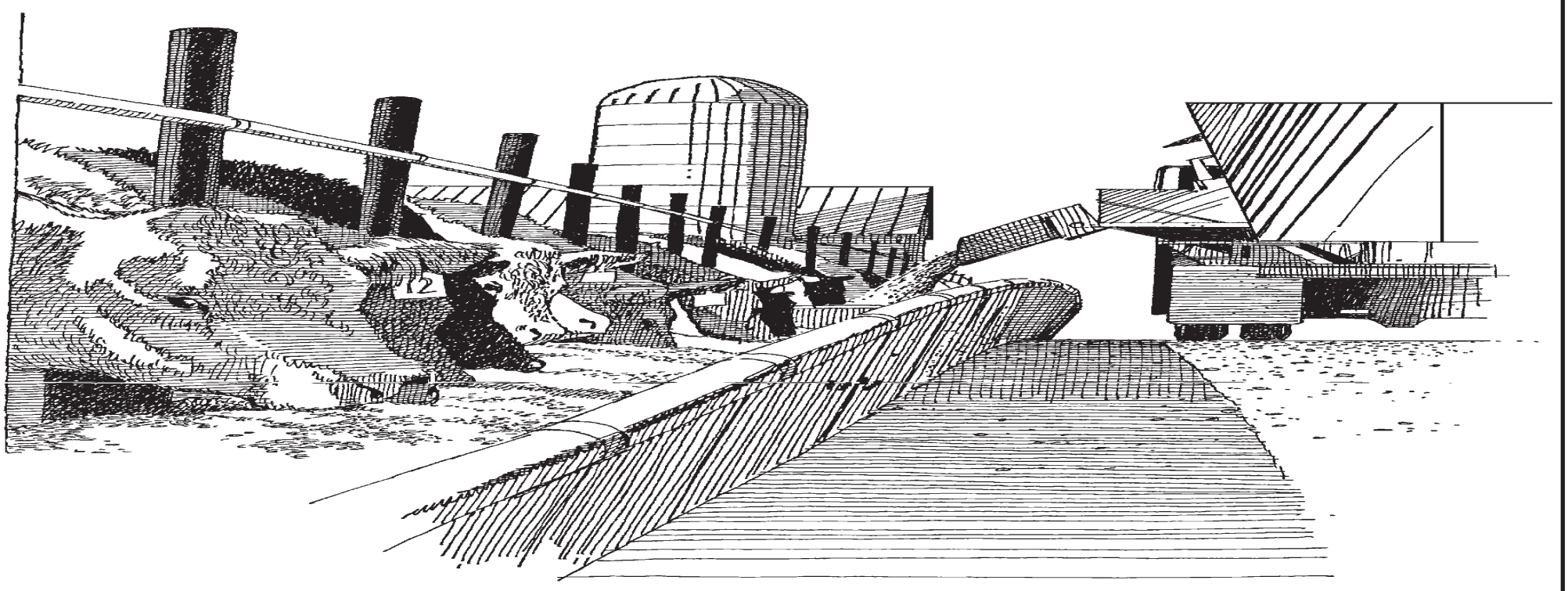
THURSDAY — CATTLE ONLY

Selling starts at 10:00 a.m. Consign your cattle as early as possible so we can get them highly advertised.

— AUCTIONEERS —

KYLE ELWOOD, GARREN WALROD & RUSTY TAYLOR

For a complete list of cattle for all sales check out our website at www.fandrlive.com



EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR JANUARY 3RD:

40 blk strs, 900 lbs.; 15 hfrs, 800 lbs.; 60 Angus strs, 550-800 lbs., weaned/3 rnd vacc.; 30 Angus hfrs, 500-650 lbs., weaned/3 rnd vacc.; 25 strs & hfrs, 500-700 lbs., weaned/2 rnd vacc.; 50 blk strs, 550-700 lbs.; 75 strs & hfrs, 700-800 lbs., weaned/vacc.; 44 strs & hfrs, 500-700 lbs., weaned; 37 strs & hfrs, 700-800 lbs.; 50 strs & hfrs, 800 lbs.; 60 strs, 900 lbs.; 200 blk strs & hfrs, 500-650 lbs., long weaned/vacc./green; 75 blk strs & hfrs, 800-950 lbs., home raised; 100 blk strs & hfrs, 500-700 lbs, weaned/vacc.; 47 strs, 850-900 lbs.; 30 blk/bwf strs & hfrs, 500-700 lbs., long weaned/home raised; 10 strs & hfrs, 600-700 lbs., long weaned/blackleg

PLUS MANY MORE BY SALE TIME!

EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR JANUARY 8TH PRECONDITIONED CALF SALE:

73 strs & hfrs, 600-700 lbs., calfhood vacc.; 72 blk strs, 600-800 lbs.; 35 blk strs & hfrs, 600-700 lbs.; 15 blk/red hfrs, 600-700 lbs.; 39 blk/bwf strs & hfrs, 750-900 lbs.; 20 blk/red strs & hfrs, 550-600 lbs.; 125 blk strs & hfrs, 550-700 lbs.; 400 blk strs & hfrs, 450-650 lbs.; 160 blk strs & hfrs, 500-700 lbs., off wheat/source & age verified; 50 blk strs & hfrs, 500-700 lbs.; 100 strs & hfrs, 700-800 lbs.; 60 blk strs & hfrs, 650-700 lbs.; 160 mostly blk strs & hfrs, 550-800 lbs.; 65 blk strs & hfrs, 700-800 lbs.; 120 blk strs & hfrs, 600-650 lbs.; 100 blk strs & hfrs, 600-650 lbs.; 65 mostly blk strs & hfrs, 600-650 lbs.; 259 blk strs & hfrs, 600-800 lbs., source & age verified; 315 blk strs & hfrs, 600-800 lbs., source & age verified; 75 strs & hfrs, 550-600 lbs.; 350 Angus strs & hfrs, 600-800 lbs.; 55 strs & hfrs, 600 lbs.; 93 blk strs & hfrs, 650-750 lbs.; 27 strs & hfrs, 575-725 lbs.; 40 strs & hfrs, 600-650 lbs.; 50 strs & hfrs, 450-800 lbs.; 102 blk strs & hfrs, 600-700 lbs.; 235 blk strs, 600-750 lbs.; 90 blk hfrs, 550-650 lbs.; 70 blk strs & hfrs, 600-825 lbs.; 50 strs & hfrs, 500-700 lbs.; 75 strs, 775-800 lbs.; 175 blk strs & hfrs, 600-800 lbs.; 85 blk strs & hfrs, 450-600 lbs.; 40 strs & hfrs, 600-700 lbs.; 35 blk strs & hfrs, 550-750 lbs.; 80 blk/red strs & hfrs, 650-750 lbs.; 95 Angus strs, 700-800 lbs., off wheat/Angus source verified; 50 strs, 600-700 lbs.; 85 strs, 700-800 lbs.; 530 blk strs & hfrs, 600-750 lbs.

PLUS MANY MORE BY SALE TIME!

IN STOCK TODAY:

- 6'8"x14 Bumper Pull GR Trailer
- 6'8"x24 GR Gooseneck Stock Trailer
- 6'8"x16 Gooseneck Stock Trailer Half Top
- 6'8"x16 Gooseneck Stock Trailer Half Top
- Trip Hopper Feeders
- Heavy Duty Round Bale Feeders

For Information or estimates, contact:

Mike Samples, Sale Mgr., Cell Phone 785-826-7884

Kyle Elwood, Asst. Sale Mgr., Cell Phone 785-493-2901

Check our listings each week on our website at www.fandrlive.com

Jim Crowther, 785-254-7385, Roxbury, KS

Don Long, 785-531-0606, Ellsworth, KS

Kenny Briscoe, 785-658-7386, Lincoln, KS

Kevin Henke, H: 785-732-6434, C: 785-565-3525, Agenda, KS

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CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE IS NOON SATURDAY

Although complete name, address and phone number need not appear in your ad, we must have this information for our records.

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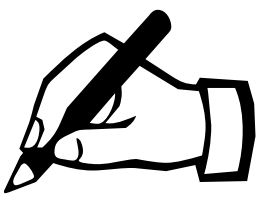

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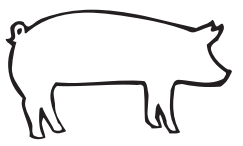

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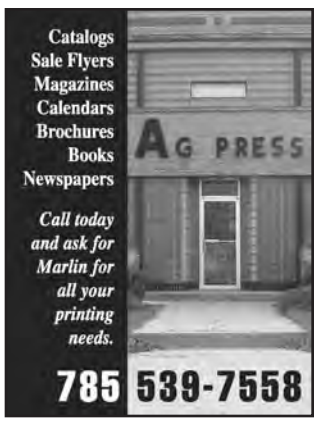

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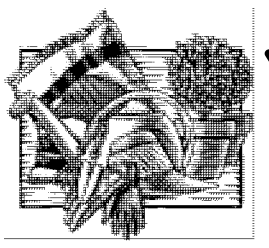

Yard & Garden Tips
By Gregg Eyestone

Winter moisture and challenges to remove it

Moisture in any form is needed. Icy walks and roads are not. Since we can't control the weather conditions, the best way to work with it is necessary. I prefer the sun and warmth to remove snow and ice. That isn't working as fast as I hoped.

The time-honored method is to use a shovel. Applying woodchips, sawdust, sand, kitty litter, bird seed or other material to provide traction is helpful. This approach is practical when there is a quick warm up after the weather event.

Different chemical materials have been used to aid in melting and removing slippery conditions. They differ some in how they work and at what temperature. Like pesticides, they should be used according to their instructions. We don't want to add a pollutant into our environment. Try to keep them off the neighboring grass and plants. The majority of misuse I encounter is over-application. Using more than recommended doesn't make it work better. All of these products have an effect on the environment and adding more than needed only increases this impact.

There are things that can be used to reduce their use. Remove as much of the snow and ice first. Don't try to melt everything. Use a combination ice melt and traction material.

Potassium chloride and urea are plant fertilizers. In low doses they won't hurt plants. Unfortunately, they can damage concrete. Once the ice is gone, washing the product off the concrete is best for the concrete.

Sodium chloride, which is rock salt, is commonly used. It is often the cheapest. Rock salt does dry out the surface. Being corrosive and damaging to both concrete and plants are its challenges. Calcium chloride and magnesium chloride work faster and at lower temperatures than rock salt. As it works, it makes the surface slippery. Ice melt products are a tool along with shovels and traction materials. All ice melts have the potential to damage plants, surfaces and corrode metal. Moderate use and natural rainfall or dilution with water should prevent plant and concrete damage.

You can find out more information on this and other horticulture topics by going to the K-State Research and Extension website at www.ksre.ksu.edu.And you contact Gregg Eyestone at the Riley County office of K-State Research and Extension. Gregg may be contacted by calling 537-6350 or stopping by 110 Courthouse Plaza in Manhattan or e-mail: geyeston@ksu.edu

International grain program held at Kansas State

Wheat commissioners from across the U.S. traveled to the International Grains Program at Kansas State University for the Wheat Commissioners Training Program. Seventeen members participated in the training opportunity held Dec. 10-12, 2012.

Throughout the week, participants attended presentations from Mark Fowler, milling specialist and IGP associate director; Justin Gilpin, CEO of Kansas Wheat; and Dave Krishock, flour quality and baking specialist. To start off the course, participants were in the classroom learning about the classes and quality of wheat, milling math and blending.

"We came to get an education about what we do," says Tom Zwainz, director for the Washington Grain Commission and wheat grower. "When we get new directors, we need to send them through these types of trainings to give them a better foundation with which to make decisions."

During the training, participants had the opportunity to put that knowledge to the test during a bakery laboratory in Shellenberger Hall at K-State and a soft and hard wheat milling laboratory in the Hal Ross Flour Mill. The laboratory experiences gave the participants a better understanding of how wheat is made into flour and the different classes of wheat, Fowler says.

"Scientifically, things haven't changed in the process of making flour in over 100 years, but I hadn't realized all that it takes to break down wheat into flour," Zwainz says.

Another participant, Shelia Frahm, Kansas Wheat Commission, has wanted to attend a milling course for 30 years, and she says the hands-on learning experience is a follow up to her dream. She now knows wheat definitions, different classes of wheat and steps of milling.

"We've been able to condense three semesters of classes into three days and we've experienced something pretty incredible," Frahm says. "Through this course I've seen wheat from kernel to flour and I did not realize there were so many steps to the process."

With such a high percentage of U.S. wheat being exported, it is crucial that wheat growers and buyers understand the international market as well.

This is just one example of the many partnership trainings offered through IGP. In addition, IGP offers trainings in the areas of feed manufacturing and grain management, flour milling and grain processing, and grain marketing and risk management. To learn about the training opportunities offered by IGP please visit the IGP website at www.grains.k-state.edu/igp.

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Crop health workshop: getting the word out about making sure your crops are the best

"Are your crops as vigorous as they can be? The best in the neighborhood? Truly maximum robustness, with big leaves, big roots, and no disease?" are the questions asked of farmers and crop advisors by consulting agronomist Matt Hagny, whose work on continuous no-till cropping systems spans 19 years in Kansas and across the Great Plains.

"If there's somewhere in one of your fields that grows dramatically better, perhaps an old feedlot or manured area, this should be your benchmark. If your crops are ever paler than the darkest green, that's a scream for attention. Ignore it at your peril," Hagny says.

While occasionally crop foliage can be pale from herbicide injury or carryover, much more common is the starvation for nutrients, explains Hagny. "We usually think of needing more nitrogen as the first reaction, and that often is correct, but sulfur deficiency is nearly as common and produces a similarly pale plant," he says. "Also, many micronutrient deficiencies are proving all-too-common in the region—zinc, copper, molybdenum ("moly"), manganese, iron—all of which cause crop paleness, and lost yield potential. Deficits of magnesium, a secondary nutrient, also cause paleness, and to some extent potassium does too, yet these are often induced by rooting problems," says Hagny. "We also find boron deficiency, but that doesn't cause paleness—instead, it causes growth abnormalities and pollination problems," Hagny explains. Hagny was the first to look for moly deficiency in the region's crops, and found it was quite widespread, to the amazement of soil scientists in the region. "We're getting a yield boost from applying moly on legumes, and it's only a couple dollars an acre to apply—that's a huge return on investment," says Hagny.

Farming is essentially a massive exporting of nutrients in the crops, Hagny explains. Along with leaching of some nutrients, the exporting of nutrients eventually causes deficits and yields are impaired: "When the prairies were broken from sod, the farmers didn't need any fertilizers for several decades. But after the soil organic matter (SOM) declined from tillage, eventually crops became responsive to N and P fertilizers. After a while, crops began to show responses to additional nutrients, such as zinc or sulfur. This happened regardless of tillage system," says Hagny. "No-till adoption tends to accelerate the timeline for nutritional deficits to occur, since crop stubble and soil organic matter are 'sinks' for nutrients, and the more abundant soil biology found in no-till must also be fed. However, a solid nutritional program along with good agronomy can produce crop yields and profits that previously were not thought possible," says Hagny, "Micronutrients are absolutely essential for normal plant growth and maximum yield. They're also absolutely essential for humans and livestock. All will suffer from subpar health and disease when deprived of adequate micronutrients, or if large imbalances occur."

With the recent droughts, some producers might think little can be done, but Hagny thinks otherwise: "Of course, the first order of business is maintaining a thick mulch cover on the soil. But many micronutrients are particularly important to keep roots growing at the maximum rate in dry soils," he says. "There's a lot more to generating robust crops than nutrients, however. Planting a crop too deep will enfeeble it from the outset—I see this a lot with no-till wheat. Of course, too shallow creates another hazard—winterkill." Hagny continues, "Failing to break up the sidewalls when planting corn will cause 'tomahawk roots' that struggle to escape the furrow, resulting in poor plant growth, and the same is true for wheat that's planted into damp clay soils. Low seed vigor is another sure-fire road to lackluster crops—not just thin stands, but plants that are much weaker than if they'd grown from high-vigor seed—and this has been proven over and over," says Hagny.

To get the word out on these topics, Hagny's consulting firm, Pinnacle Crop Tech, is continuing its highly successful Crop Health Workshop: Agronomy Essentials series for the eighth year. The January 28th, 2013 event will put practical agronomic information in the hands of the region's farmers, agronomists, and researchers.

For the Crop Health Workshop, Hagny teams up with Ray Ward, PhD, founder of Ward Laboratories in Kearney, Neb. Ward has developed and managed several agricultural testing laboratories from Oklahoma to South Dakota, and is highly regarded as a soil scientist. Ward also has particular interest in plant nutrition for long-term no-till, and always has the success of the farmer in mind when separating facts from fiction in today's ag-business culture. Ward emphasizes the view that plant nutritional requirements are ratcheted up with new cropping procedures on the Plains: "Fertilizer needs, including micronutrients, have changed for no-till farmers because of increased cropping intensity, improved crop yields, and higher microbe activity."

The workshop aims to heighten awareness of the nutritional requirements of crops, going beyond the basics, and delving particularly into the additional management needed to take advantage of the moisture savings of no-tillage cropping. Under discussion will be wheat, corn, sorghum, soybeans, cotton, canola, sunflowers, and cover-crop species. Many aspects of agronomy beyond nutrient concerns will also be covered briefly—the key 'need to know' points. Attendees take home a 48-page, full-color booklet of the 280-slide presentation.

The workshop runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, the 28th of January, 2013 at the Courtyard-Marriot, Salina, with a noon meal provided. Tuition is $200/person in advance, or $275 if received after the 15th of January. To enroll, mail payment to Pinnacle Crop Tech, Inc., P.O. Box 952, Salina, KS 67402. If you are registering after the 15th, please call 316-303-2040 to check if seats are still available. For more information, see www.AgronomyPro.com.

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MANHATTAN	3 BLK BULL	406@$185.00
WASHINGTON	4 BLK STR	536@$178.50
WASHINGTON	1 BLK STR	350@$177.00
FRANKFORT	1 RED STR	380@$175.00
SENECA	7 BLK STR	547@$173.50
GREENLEAF	1 XBRD STR	355@$171.00
BERN	5 XBRD STR	556@$170.50
WATERVILLE	1 CHAR STR	435@$170.00
GREENLEAF	4 XBRD STR	535@$170.00
WATERVILLE	2 BLK STR	590@$169.00
FRANKFORT	5 XBRD STR	573@$168.00
MARYSVILLE	3 XBRD STR	526@$166.00
SENECA	12 BLK STR	634@$165.00
HANOVER	1 BWF STR	505@$164.00
PALMER	5 BLK BULL	405@$164.00
MANHATTAN	4 BLK BULL	462@$161.00
CORNING	1 XBRD STR	470@$160.50
BARNES	3 BLK STR	583@$160.50
PALMER	2 BLK STR	620@$160.50
MARYSVILLE	39 BLK STR	651@$160.25
MARYSVILLE	3 BLK STR	651@$157.25
WASHINGTON	1 BLK STR	650@$156.50
MANHATTAN	5 BLK BULL	578@$155.50
BURCHARD,NE	14 BLK STR	689@$151.60
BERN	7 BLK STR	697@$149.75
HANOVER	1 BWF STR	695@$149.25
GREENLEAF	6 BLK STR	717@$149.00
MANHATTAN	2 MIX BULL	577@$147.00
PALMER	57 MIX BULL	540@$146.25
PALMER	6 BLK STR	708@$145.75
PALMER	14 XBRD BULL	651@$145.50
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ONAGA	6 XBRD STR	881@$143.85
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PALMER	12 MIX BULL	756@$128.50
MARYSVILLE	1 BLK STR	1,010@$125.50
HANOVER	1 CHAR STR	1,030@$125.00
PALMER	1 BLK BULL	1,120@$90.50
MARYSVILLE	1 BLK BULL	920@$90.50

HEIFERS

BERN	2 CHAR HFR	332@$171.00
BARNES	5 XBRD HFR	461@$165.00
BERN	3 XBRD HFR	468@$160.00
FRANKFORT	7 BLK HFR	524@$158.75
HANOVER	2 BLK HFR	457@$158.50
GREENLEAF	3 BLK HFR	515@$157.50
WASHINGTON	3 BLK HFR	501@$157.00
GOFF	6 BLK HFR	529@$156.50
MARYSVILLE	11 BLK HFR	524@$156.50
SENECA	13 BLK HFR	546@$148.25
SENECA	6 BLK HFR	610@$142.25
PALMER	2 BLK HFR	597@$141.25
FRANKFORT	3 XBRD HFR	603@$141.00
MARYSVILLE	33 BLK HFR	684@$140.75
FRANKFORT	9 BLK HFR	777@$140.25
BERN	9 XBRD HFR	625@$140.25
GREENLEAF	3 XBRD HFR	613@$140.00
SENECA	14 BLK HFR	744@$139.75
HANOVER	8 XBRD HFR	645@$138.75
FRANKFORT	38 BLK HFR	833@$137.50
MARYSVILLE	9 XBRD HFR	874@$137.00
GREENLEAF	1 BWF HFR	815@$136.75
BLUE RAPIDS	1 BLK HFR	890@$126.50
MARYSVILLE	15 XBRD HFR	913@$126.00
CENTRALIA	2 BLK HFR	865@$124.00
HANOVER	2 BLK HFR	965@$123.50

HFRETTES

HANOVER	2 XBRD HFRETTE	1,065@$120.00
BLUE RAPIDS	1 XBRD HFRETTE	1,080@$120.00
ODELL,NE	1 BLK HFRETTE	1,005@$119.00
WASHINGTON	2 XBRD HFRETTE	930@$115.50
FRANKFORT	1 RED HFRETTE	970@$117.00
SENECA	1 BLK HFRETTE	850@$115.00
BARNES	1 BLK HFRETTE	1,100@$109.00
BARNES	1 BLK HFRETTE	995@$109.00
SENECA	1 BLK HFRETTE	995@$107.50
FRANKFORT	1 RED HFRETTE	1,120@$107.00
WASHINGTON	1 BLK HFRETTE	895@$100.50
CORNING	1 BLK HFRETTE	1,140@$100.00
SENECA	1 BLK HFRETTE	980@$99.00
ODELL,NE	1 BLK HFRETTE	1,020@$99.00
ODELL,NE	1 BLK HFRETTE	1,100@$97.00
BARNES	1 BLK HFRETTE	1,090@$96.00
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WATERVILLE	1 blk coow	3 YRS 8 MO	$1,275.00

COW/CALF PAIR

SENECA	2 MIX CCPR	7 YRS	$1,640.00
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COWS

OLSBURG	1 BLK COW	1,260@$80.00
BURCHARD,NE	1 BLK COW	1,255@$77.00
BLUE RAPIDS	1 BLK COW	1,630@$76.75
OLSBURG	1 BLK COW	1,555@$76.25
MARYSVILLE	1 CHAR COW	1,415@$76.00
BURCHARD,NE	1 BLK COW	1,135@$76.00
MARYSVILLE	1 XBRD COW	1,440@$75.50
OLSBURG	1 BLK COW	1,350@$75.50
BLUE RAPIDS	1 BLK COW	1,560@$75.00
CORNING	1 BLK COW	1,300@$75.00
BLUE RAPIDS	1 BLK COW	1,460@$73.75
BURCHARD,NE	1 BWF COW	1,470@$73.75
MARYSVILLE	1 BLK COW	1,400@$73.25
BURCHARD,NE	1 BLK COW	1,540@$73.00
MARYSVILLE	1 BWF COW	1,680@$72.75
BAILEYVILLE	1 HOL COW	1,570@$72.50
BLUE RAPIDS	1 BLK COW	1,230@$72.25
BURCHARD,NE	1 BLK COW	1,130@$72.25
BURCHARD,NE	1 RED COW	1,445@$72.00
BURCHARD,NE	1 BWF COW	1,135@$72.00
BURCHARD,NE	1 BWF COW	1,375@$71.75
WATERVILLE	1 BLK COW	1,325@$71.75
ODELL,NE	1 BLK COW	1,465@$71.50
MARYSVILLE	1 BWF COW	1,500@$71.50
MARYSVILLE	1 BLK COW	1,565@$71.50
MARYSVILLE	1 BLK COW	1,520@$71.25
HANOVER	1 BLK COW	1,525@$71.25
BURCHARD,NE	1 BWF COW	1,285@$71.25
MARYSVILLE	1 BWF COW	1,520@$71.00
BURCHARD,NE	1 BWF COW	1,340@$71.00
MARYSVILLE	1 BWF COW	1,200@$71.00
SENECA	1 BLK COW	1,235@$70.75
BURCHARD,NE	1 BLK COW	1,260@$70.50
BURCHARD,NE	1 BWF COW	1,385@$70.25
WASHINGTON	1 CHAR COW	1,460@$70.00
BLUE RAPIDS	1 BLK COW	1,285@$70.00
HANOVER	1 BWF COW	860@$70.00
CORNING	1 BWF COW	1,380@$70.00
HANOVER	1 BLK COW	1,630@$69.75
ODELL,NE	1 BLK COW	1,385@$69.75
BURCHARD,NE	1 WF COW	1,490@$69.75
OLSBURG	1 BWF COW	1,500@$69.75
BURCHARD,NE	1 BWF COW	1,290@$69.50
ODELL,NE	1 BLK COW	1,425@$69.50
GOFF	1 BLK COW	1,095@$69.50
MARYSVILLE	1 BLK COW	1,500@$69.25
WASHINGTON	1 BLK COW	1,575@$69.25
SENECA	1 BWF COW	1,425@$69.00
WASHINGTON	1 RED COW	1,330@$68.75
DILLER,NE	1 RED COW	1,440@$68.50
OLSBURG	1 BWF COW	1,400@$68.50
VERMILLION	1 BLK COW	1,320@$68.25
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WASHINGTON	1 RED COW	1,545@$66.00
ODELL,NE	1 BWF COW	1,175@$66.00
MANHATTAN	1 BWF COW	1,180@$65.75
OLSBURG	1 WF COW	1,425@$65.75
VERMILLION	1 BLK COW	1,380@$65.25
MARYSVILLE	1 WF COW	1,220@$64.75
SENECA	1 BLK COW	1,145@$64.25
MANHATTAN	1 BWF COW	1,010@$64.00
HANOVER	1 BLK COW	1,795@$64.00
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VERMILLION	1 BLK COW	1,280@$63.25
MANHATTAN	1 BWF COW	960@$63.00
HANOVER	1 BWF COW	1,565@$62.50
DILLER,NE	1 BLK COW	1,195@$62.25
ODELL,NE	1 BLK COW	1,350@$61.25
WASHINGTON	1 BWF COW	1,340@$61.25
MARYSVILLE	1 BLK COW	1,600@$61.00
OLSBURG	1 BLK COW	1,230@$60.50

ADULT BULLS

SENECA	1 BLK BULL	1,725@$89.50
MARYSVILLE	1 BLK BULL	1,735@$89.25
BARNES	1 BLK BULL	1,630@$83.50
MANHATTAN	1 RED BULL	1,290@$83.00
FRANKFORT	1 BLK BULL	1,690@$82.75
MANHATTAN	1 BLK BULL	1,385@$81.75

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62	BLK STRS/HFRS	550-700#	WV HR	
70	MIX STRS/HFRS	650-800#	WV HR	
265	BLK STRS/HFRS	600-750#	WV HR	
45	BLK STRS/HFRS	650-800#	WV HR	OG
10	BLK STRS/HFRS	600-700#	WV HR	
75	BLK STRS/HFRS	700-800#	wv hr	
30	BLK & BWF STRS	700-800#	WV HR	
82	BLK STRS/HFRS	700-850#	WV HR	
80	MIX STRS	700-850#	WV	
27	BLK STRS	750-775#	WVx2 HR	
62	BLK STRS	875-900#	WV	
120	BLK STRS	900-925#	WV	
60	BLK STRS/HFRS	925-950#	WV	

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Kansas farmers need to plan for future

(AP) – Passing the family farm to the next generation takes a great deal of planning, but many farmers in Kansas haven't taken steps to solidify those plans, officials said.

Attorney Stacey Seibel, who has done estate planning for 16 years, told The Hutchinson News that she asked farmers about their inheritance plans at a recent seminar in Plainville. She said 35 of the farmers between the ages of 50 and 70.

"Out of the 35 farmers, 25 percent didn't have any plan or even a will," Seibel said. Another "25 percent had a will, but the will was more than eight years old."

Farm transition is a significant issue that will become more important over the next decade, said Arlyn Miller, an attorney at Martindell Swearer Shaffer Ridenour law office in Hutchinson. Farmers are now disproportionately older and nearing retirement, and many will face transition issues.

Plus, land values have been climbing, making it difficult for a young farmer to acquire the financing needed to buy out non-farm family members.

"The parents often want one of the kids to be able to continue to farm, but they also want to treat all their children alike," Miller said. "Those two objectives are not always achievable."

Kansas Farm Bureau attorney Mike Irvin also said he gets calls from members saying they don't know the plan their father has for the farm. He said younger farmers are under the impression that "Someday, son, this will all be yours."

"The problem is, I get guys who come up to me, 55 years old, and they say 'I don't know what the plan is,'" he said.

There is no correct answer, he said. The aging farmer has to decide how to make a smooth transition and what's fair for the non-farming children, along with the tax issues and setting up something that will help with the couple's retirement.

"That's why it is important to plan," Irvin said. "Then, after the parent dies, there is a whole planning stage that will transfer this farm to the next generation. Then it is less apt to go to court, less apt for something to block the transfer."

Pratt County farmers Berry and Carla Bortz are working on transitioning the farm to their children, Darnell, 21, and Brandon, 26, who have expressed interest in returning to the farm.

"We haven't figured it all out yet," Berry Bortz said. He said once his sons return they will "earn their stripes, so to speak." That could mean having them buy into the farm at 10 percent, let them work for seven or eight years and then pay for another 15 percent, he said.

"By that time, I would be 65, and they would be equal partners with me and Carla," Bortz said. ``We would all have 25 percent of the farm."

They would then make decisions from that point on management of the estate, he said.

"Some things have to be flexible," he said. "That is our personal opinion. That might not be the way to do it for everyone."

B C Lookout 7024 won Roll of Victory (ROV) sire of the year at the 2012 North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) Super Point Roll of Victory (ROV) Angus Show, Nov. 12-13 in Louisville, Ky. William Conley, Clarksdale, Mo.; McCurry Bros., Sedgwick; and Limestone LLC, Perkins, Okla., owns the winning bull. Pictured from left are American Angus Association Director of Activities and Events Shelia Stannard; Pam, Greg and Anna McCurry; Miss American Angus Brooke Harward; and Brad McCurry.

Photo by Carrie Heitman, American Angus Association.

Sea Minerals FA

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I am sending you some pictures of our 3rd cutting alfalfa on a first year field ***(see the pictures and the complete story at www.SeaMineralsFA.com).*** It is crotch high on my son who is 6 ft. This has been sprayed with Sea Minerals FA 3 times, one time each cutting. We have had little to no natural moisture here since October of 2010. We are very pleased with the results and plan on continuing using it as we are seeing improvement in production with each cutting.

July 30, 2011 — W. Dilts, Belen, NM

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JC LIVESTOCK SALES INC.

Wednesday Sale, Hogs 10:30 AM • Cattle 12:30 PM

For week of December 26, 2012.

NO SALE: Dec. 26th due to Christmas. We want to wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope to continue to work with you on all your livestock needs in 2013.

CONSIGNMENTS FOR JANUARY 2:

70 Ang X Strs/Hfrs	500-700 lbs.	Weaned
70 Ang X Strs/Hfrs	575-750 lbs.	Weaned
60 Blk X Strs	800-825 lbs.	Yearlings
60 Blk X Strs	825-850 lbs.	Yearlings
70 Mix Strs	825-850 lbs.	Yearlings
50 Ang X Hfrs	700-750 lbs.	Yearlings
40 Blk X Hfrs	725-750 lbs.	Yearlings
10 Ang Hfrs	800-950 lbs.	Yearlings

PLUS MORE BY SALE TIME!

CONSIGNMENTS FOR JANUARY 9:

120 Red Ang X Strs	700-850 lbs.	Yearlings
75 Red Ang X Hfrs	650-750 lbs.	Yearlings

PLUS MORE BY SALE TIME!

CONSIGNMENTS FOR JANUARY 16:

120 WF Strs/Hfrs wean/vacc	400-650 lbs.	Grosse Farms

PLUS MORE BY SALE TIME!

If you need assistance in marketing your cattle please call & we will be happy to discuss it with you.

CLAY CENTER LIVESTOCK SALES INC.

Cattle sales Tuesday, 11:00 AM.

For week of December 25, 2012:

No Sale January 1st due to New Years Day!

No Sale due to Christmas Holiday. We want to wish everyone a Happy New Year and look forward to working with you with all of your livestock needs in 2013.

NEXT SHEEP & GOAT SALE: SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 2013

EQUIPMENT AND HAY SELL @ 11:30

Last month had lots of alfalfa and nice sheep and goat panels expect the same this month.

SHEEP & GOAT SELL @ 12 NOON

70 Droper X ewe lambs, 60-80 lbs.
80 Boer X Kids, 50-70 lbs.
1 Male Alpalca
1 Min. Black Jack
1 Min. Gray Jenny's

PLUS MANY MORE!

CONSIGNMENTS FOR JANUARY 8TH:

165 Blk X Strs/Hfrs	650-800 lbs.	Weaned & Vacc.
145 Blk X Strs/Hfrs	700-900 lbs.	Weaned & Vacc.
58 Char X Strs/Hfrs	700-800 lbs.	Weaned & Vacc.
65 Holstein Strs	800-850	Yearlings
275 Blk X Strs/Hfrs	600-750 lbs.	Weaned & Vacc.
115 Blk X Strs/Hfrs	650-800 lbs.	Weaned & Vacc.
75 Ang X Strs/Hfrs	675-800 lbs.	Weaned & Vacc.

PLUS MANY MORE!

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No Sale last Wednesday due to the Holiday! Have a Safe and Happy NEW YEAR!

EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR JANUARY 2:
- 30 Charolais cross Limo steers & heifers, 500-700 lbs., longtime weaned

MORE CONSIGNMENTS BY SALE TIME!

EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR JANUARY 9:
- 130 black & Charolais steers, 750-800 lbs.
- 550 black red & Charolais steers, 800-900 lbs.

MORE CONSIGNMENTS BY SALE TIME!

EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR JANUARY 16

16TH SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY SALE:
- 12 black steers, 500-550 lbs., longtime weaned
- 15 mostly black heifers, 500-550 lbs., longtime weaned
- 150 black blkwf & redwf steers & heifers, 625-850 lbs., homeraised & longtime weaned
- 250 black & blkwf steers & heifers, 625-875 lbs., homeraised & longtime weaned
- 77 black & red steers, 700-800 lbs.
- 160 mostly black steers, 825-900 lbs.
- 120 black red steers, 850-900 lbs.

MORE CONSIGNMENTS BY SALE TIME!

EXPECTING 1,200-1,600 HEAD!

CHECK US OUT AT emporialivestock.com FOR ALL THE SCHEDULES AND CONSIGNMENTS!

THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!
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LYLE WILLIAMS, Field Representative, 785-229-5457
WIBW 580 - 6:45 A.M. Thurs;
KVOE 1400 - 6:30-6:45 A.M. Thurs. & Fri.
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Happy New Year!

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LYNN LANGVARDT 785-762-2702 Cell: 785-761-5813

Radio Market Reports KCLY-Fm 100.9 Tues. 6:45 a.m.

Kansas Hay Market Report

Hay trade slow. Demand moderate for dairy and grinding alfalfa, stock cow hay, grass hay and alfalfa pellets. The winter storm brought bitter cold and wind with very little moisture. Very little new trade has been reported but there has been increased interest that may eventually result in new hay sales. If you have hay for sale or pasture to rent or need hay or grazing, use the services of the Hay and Pasture Exchange: www.kfb.org/hayandpasture /default.htm

Southwest Kansas

Dairy and grinding alfalfa steady. Movement slow to moderate. Alfalfa, Horse, small squares 400.00. Dairy, Supreme 260.00-280.00, a little up to 300.00; Premium 250.00-270.00; Heifer or Bunk hay 240.00-250.00. Fair-Good grinding alfalfa at the edge of the field, 220.00-240.00, Utility-Fair 210.00-220.00. Ground and delivered locally to feedlots and dairies, 250.00-275.00. The week of 12/17-22, 9,090T of grinding alfalfa and 2,760T of dairy alfalfa were delivered. Straw, large bales 60.00-70.00. Corn stalks 60.00-70.00, or 70.00-85.00 delivered, ground and delivered 95.00-125.00. PM6 small squares 250.00, large square 225.00. CRP, Fair, large bales 90.00-100.00, Good 110.00-130.00. Sudan/Cane, Good, 140.00-150.00.

South Central Kansas

Dairy and grinding alfalfa and alfalfa pellets steady. Movement slow to moderate. Alfalfa, Dairy, Supreme, 260.00-280.00, a little up to 300.00. Premium 240.00-260.00; Heifer or Bunk hay 230.00-260.00. Fair-Good grinding alfalfa at the edge of the field 200.00-220.00, some 230.00-250.00 delivered. Ground and delivered locally to feedlots, 240.00-265.00. The week of 12/17-22, 3,495T of grinding alfalfa and 1,000T of dairy alfalfa were delivered. Alfalfa pellets: Sun Cured 15 pct protein 290.00-305.00, 17 pct protein 295.00-315.00; Dehydrated 17 pct 355.00. Straw, large bales 55.00-70.00, Hi-density bales 65.00-75.00. Corn stalks 60.00-70.00. Sudan, Good, large bales 145.00-150.00. Milo hay, high nitrates 100.00, low nitrates 120.00-

150.00. Milo stalks 70.00-90.00. Soybean stalks 80.00-100.00. Soybean Hay, Good 200.00. Grass hay, Good, large bales 150.00-180.00, Fair, large bales 90.00-120.00.

Southeast Kansas

Alfalfa, brome and prairie hay steady. Movement slow to moderate. Alfalfa: Horse or Goat, 300.00. Dairy, Supreme up to 300.00, stock cow 250.00-280.00. Bluestem: Good, small squares 140.00-160.00, mid and large squares 125.00-150.00, large rounds 100.00-135.00; Brome: Good, Small squares 140.00-150.00, mid and large squares 130.00-150.00, large rounds 110.00-150.00, some 90.00/bale. Grass Mulch CWF, large round 70.00. Straw, large bales 50.00-60.00. Soybean hay, good large bales 170.00-200.00. CRP, Fair, large bales 100.00. Milo hay, Good 100.00-130.00.

Northwest Kansas

Alfalfa steady. Movement slow to moderate. Alfalfa: Horse, small squares 300.00, Mid squares 250.00; Dairy, Premium 230.00-240.00, Supreme up to 300.00; Stock cow 200.00-220.00. Fair-Good grinding alfalfa at the edge of the field 210.00-230.00. Ground and delivered to feedlots and dairies 250.00-270.00. Corn hay, large bales 100.00-125.00. Corn stalks 55.00-70.00. Milo hay, Good, 150.00-175.00. CRP hay, large bales, Good, 125.00-150.00, Fair, 100.00. BMR Sudan, Good, 160.00-200.00, Regular Sudan, Good, 145.00.

North Central-Northeast Kansas

Dairy, grinding alfalfa, prairie hay and brome steady. Movement slow to moderate. Alfalfa: Horse, 300.00, some 10.00-12.00/small square bale; Dairy, Supreme 240.00-265.00, Clippings up to 300.00; Premium 230.00-250.00; Utility-Fair grinding alfalfa at the edge of the field, 200.00-220.00, some 230.00 delivered, alfalfa ground-on-the-truck 225.00, Ground and delivered 240.00-270.00. Grass hay: Bluestem Good, small squares, 6.50/bale, an instance 10.00/bale, 120.00-160.00, Mid squares 130.00-150.00, a little 165.00, large rounds 50.00/bale, 110.00-150.00/T. Brome: Good, small squares, 7.00/bale, an instance 10.00/bale, 110.00-150.00/T, an instance 180.00, Mid squares, 120.00-160.00, an instance 180.00, large round, 50.00/bale, 110.00-150.00/T; Grass Mulch, large round 60.00, CWF large round 100.00. Straw, small squares 3.50/bale or 4.50/bale delivered; large bales 60.00-65.00/T or 70.00-80.00 delivered. Soybean hay, Good large bales 130.00-170.00. Sudan, Good, large bales 150.00.

****Prices are dollars per ton and FOB unless otherwise noted. Dairy alfalfa prices are for mid and large squares unless otherwise noted. Horse hay is in small squares unless otherwise noted. Prices are from the most recent sales.*

**CWF Certified Weed Free. *RFV calculated using the Wis/Minn formula.*

***TDN calculated using the Western formula. Quantitative factors are approximate, and many factors can affect feeding value. Values based on 100% dry matter (TDN showing both 100% & 90%). Guidelines are to be used with visual appearance and intent of sale (usage).*

Source: Kansas Dept of Ag-USDA Market News Service, Dodge City, KS Steve Hessman, Rich Hruska, OIC (620) 227-8881 24 hour price information (620) 369-9311 www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports /DC_GR310.txt; www.ams.usda.gov/lsmarketnews.

The Kansas Hay Market Report is provided by the Kansas Department of Agriculture with technical oversight from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service.

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Steers & Bulls: 350-450 lbs. $150.00-$160.00
450-500 lbs. $140.00-$145.00
500-550 lbs. $135.00-$140.00

- Calves will be mixed color (black, red, char crosses) unless ordered otherwise
- All blacks upon request add $5.00
- All prices includes freight
- Will buy back as yearling

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110 Char-x blk, 650-800; 60 blk hfrs, 650-825, real quality; 150 blk strs & hfrs, 500-800; 80 blk strs & hfrs, 650-800; 35 blk, 600-750.

Saturday, January 5th SHEEP & GOAT SALE 4 PM
65 Romanov-Dorper-St. Croix Ewes, 4-5 yrs, lamb in May, VERY NICE; 7 Dorper-x bucks; 30 Boers goats, 60-70; 25 Boer goats, 50-65. PLUS MANY MORE!

Feeder Sales: Friday, Jan. 11, 18, 25!!!

If you have cattle to sell please call anytime!
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If you have cattle to consign or would like additional information, please call the office at 316-320-3212
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620-583-5008 Office 620-583-7475
Sale Every Thursday at 11:30 a.m. Sharp

Wishing Everyone a Happy New Year!

Early Consignments for January 3rd:
- 300 blk red char-x strs & hfrs, 500-900 lbs.
- 150 mixed packer cows & bulls
- 20 Angus Fall pairs, 4-8 yr old, running back with Angus bulls
- 20 blk bwf cows spring calvers bred to Angus bull, 4-8 yr old

We appreciate your business!

Ron Ervin - Owner-Manager
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Mobile Cell 620-750-0123
Austin Evenson- Fieldman
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Deep roots help grass stay green in dry spell; grazing grass too short kills off root systems

In the prolonged summer drought, farmers noticed that grass stayed green longer in their hayfields than in their pastures.

While hayfields kept growing, pastures turned brown. Cows ran out of grass to graze.

The difference is in the length of the roots. Grass that is grazed every day doesn't develop roots as deep as grass of the same species allowed to grow uncut for a month.

"Allowed to grow, grass roots will go down and find water," said Dennis Hancock, University of Georgia Extension forage specialist.

Hancock talked about basic biology of grass at the annual Crop Management Conference held by University of Missouri Extension in Columbia.

Forage crops can withstand the usual summer dry periods, Hancock said. But they must be given a chance to grow and develop deep roots.

The unseen loss from continuously grazed pastures is the killing of roots, he said. If leaves are continuously clipped, the roots die back. There's not enough photosynthesis to feed the roots. That's when lack of roots cuts the supply of water to the leaves.

Lack of strong roots on pasture grasses results in great loss to livestock producers.

Unmanaged grazing cuts losses further. On continuously grazed pastures, cattle get only 30 to 40 percent of the growth. Rotational grazing, moving livestock off the pasture before all the leaves are eaten, improves total growth.

Dividing a pasture into just four paddocks and rotating animals improves efficiency to above 60 percent. "There is lots of room for improvement," the Georgia specialist said. "If you had only 30 percent efficiency feeding your corn, you would do something about it."

In Georgia, grazing dairies increased grazing efficiency to 80 percent. They rotate cows to new paddocks after every milking.

Improved production from managed grazing is one reason dairy cow numbers are increasing, not decreasing, in Georgia, Hancock said. Forage-based milking herds have a cost advantage.

In a short lesson on grass biology, Hancock explained why grass should be grazed during the rapid growth stage. Production efficiency peaks then.

In early growth, nipping new grass too soon stunts plants. Roots fail to grow deep. At the reproductive stage, when plants set seed, growth stops. Leaves become fibrous when nutrients move into the seed head.

The rest period for forage determines the success of the grazing system.

Hancock praised Missouri farmers who use the "grazing wedge."

"Missouri leads the nation," he said.

To graph the wedge, producers measure dry-matter growth in each paddock with a rising plate meter. The graph shows which paddock to graze next. This helps prevent paddocks from going into the reproductive stage before they are grazed. Each paddock can be grazed at peak production in the rapid-growth stage.

Producers can see the system at grazingwedge.missouri.edu/.

Letting the livestock graze the forage, instead of harvesting and feeding it, is the way to increase profits. "Baled hay is the biggest block to profits," Hancock said. "If you need hay, let your neighbor grow and bale it."

Hancock left a challenge for producers: "There's no reason not to have a 300-day grazing season. Grazing grass can eliminate most of a 120-day hay-feeding season each winter. The goal is not to unroll a bale of hay."

Pasture grasses can be stockpiled, ungrazed, in the fall growing season. That forage can be grazed by livestock through most of the winter.

The underground part of the plants, the roots, extends downward during that fall while resting from grazing. Longer roots help supply the winter forages.

Kansas cattle on feed numbers lowest since 1995

The number of cattle on feed on December 1, 2012 in Kansas feedlots with 1,000 head or more capacity totaled 2.17 million head, down 8 percent from a year ago and down 2 percent from November 1, 2012. This is the lowest December 1 inventory since 1995 at 2.15 million head. Placements during November totaled 355,000 head, down 5 percent from November 2011 and down 7 percent from October 2012 placements. Marketings during November totaled 390,000 head, down 1 percent from November 2011 but up 7 percent from October 2012. Other disappearance was 15,000 head, down 5,000 from last year and down 10,000 head from the previous month. The percent of November placements by weight was: under 600 pounds, 20 percent; 600-699 pounds, 25 percent; 700-799 pounds, 30 percent; and 800 pounds or heavier, 25 percent.

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175 black Charolais steers & heifers, 650-750 lbs., homeraised, weaned & vaccinated
62 Angus steers, 800-825 lbs., homeraised
140 black heifers, 725-750 lbs.
58 black crossbred steers, 850-900 lbs.
61 black crossbred steers, 875-900 lbs.
60 black steers, 850-875 lbs.
68 black cross steers, 775-800 lbs.
70 black cross heifers, 750-775 lbs.
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