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60th Year



# Polansky Seed opens new seed cleaning facility

No. 17

By Amy G. Hadachek

Crowds of people, both in the agriculture industry as well as the interested public, flowed into the brand new Belleville building Thursday, June 4th as Polansky Seed Incorporated launched a three-part Open House at its brand new multi-million dollar seed cleaning facility. Located on Highway 36 a half-mile east of the first Polansky Seed building, the stately new addition on 15 acres is one of only about five locations in the country with state-of-the-art seed cleaning technology for the processing of multiple types of seed, including wheat. The facility is able to clean



June 16, 2015

\$1.00

Polansky Seed has opened a new seed cleaning facility a half-mile east of their original building. It's one of only six facilities in the country with this state-of-the-art seed cleaning technology.



Adrian Polansky, right, addresses the Belleville Chamber Thursday coffee meeting group to begin their recent open house.

seed six different ways, via ing dramatically accented advanced technology.

The stormy morning on launch day didn't darken the mood. Even Polansky's youngest employees bearing umbrellas, greeted and assisted the parking visitors.

Standing in front of a distinctive backdrop of a semitruck parked indoors, indicative of the warehouse capacity for 18-wheeler trucks. Adrian Polansky, president of Polansky Seed Incorporated, welcomed the Belleville Chamber Thursday coffee meeting group to the 'Open House' in a 100-by-150-foot warehouse with a high ceilwith wood beams.

"There are only five other facilities in the country that have this type of technology and set of seed cleaning equipment. So, we're excited about what that means to our farmer customers and our dealers," Polansky told the Chamber organization, which relocated its regularly scheduled Thursday Community Coffee get-together to the new Polansky seed cleaning facility, to kick off its business launch at 8 a.m.

It was the first visit of the three-part Open House that was later followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony and three Power Point presenta-

"We have outgrown our present seed processing facility, and so three years ago we bought 15 acres of land a half-mile east of Belleville, and we're progressing with phases to expand our capacity. We built a 14 x 80 foot truck scale in 2013, along with four 25,000 bushel bulk storage bins. Then, in 2014, after taking a couple of years to examine other seed plants around the state and the country to determine the direction we wanted to go, we began working with several companies and their engineers. So, we built a 100 x 150 foot warehouse, along with five additional bright silver hopper bottom bins, as well as installation of a highcapacity seed treater. Now, this year, we're completing the expanded larger seed

processing facility at the same location," said Polansky, who co-owns the business with his son Adam Polansky.

Polansky said that after growing as a company since moving to Belleville in 1992, they now market primarily (85-percent) through its dealer network in a 150-mile radius, with an extensive area in Kansas as well as in southern Nebraska.

The new facility has the ability to clean seed six different ways.

"The air screen cleaner uses screens and takes out larger material and much of the smaller material. And then the indent or length graders - when there's a kernel of wheat, for example that's split the short way, an air screen cleaner cannot remove those short halves and length graders can. Also, oats can be separated from wheat. The color sorter can select the lighter, of whatever the differentiation in For example, if color. there's some Fusariam Head Blight, some of those kernels are such that you can't remove those by any other means except by the color differentiation. And, they're very weak kernels that do carry a toxin," said Polansky.

The gravity tables sort by density. "In other words, test weight, and so it removes the kernels that are less dense. There are also the magnets, and the aspirator. Each type of equipment has a different way of separating the good

from that which needs to be removed," Polansky ex-plained. "So that's why each complement the other and why you have to have a series of different seed cleaning equipment to actually provide the best, high-quality product."

Polansky admitted this was an emotional day; just getting to this point of launching the seed cleaning facility.

"Those of you who know me know I'm a little emo-tional," said Polansky. "I can't take credit for what's happened here. It's a team effort. Mike Baxa, and Pat Baxa, and Sam (Strnad) have been with us since day one when we moved here. It's that group of people and our customers and the community is why we are – where we are today. None of us in private business are successful without a financial institution that has confidence, and, I very much appreciate Astra Bank and Mike Hadachek's support through these 20 years," Polansky said.

Next, Polansky turned the welcome program over to Mike Baxa, Polansky seed long line of Polansky employees. He explained that one of the biggest impacts of the new facility is the speed of the receiving area.

"So, we're going from the previous 400 bushels of wheat per hour to 1,000 bushels an hour, which is more than double the increase in capacity per hour. Soybeans are always a little less, so we're probably closer to 800-bushels an hour on those," said Baxa, noting, "We can unload a semi very quickly, and we can track that load of wheat through lot numbers and variety by the way it's brought in. The driver has to enter the variety and the lot number of the wheat before you can unload that wheat, so it's all record-

The massive warehouse will stage loads for shipments out, as well as being a place to store their different varieties of packaged wheat

Baxa led the Chamber guests on a grand tour in the seed cleaning facility; the tall building to the south.



District sales manager Brett Grauerholz shows a gravity table that sorts out seed by test weight. There are a total of three gravity tables at Polansky Seed's new seed cleaning facility.



A robot that was used in Polansky Seed's original facility was moved to the new building.

The building sports a large entryway and a large new space for the Polansky robot, surrounded by seven openair flights of stairs winding up and around massive equipment. The company has been using the robot for three years. Baxa said that the robot works well for stacking bags.

Baxa shared details of the

unparalleled dust collection

"There's no dust emitted to the environment, whatsoever, so it's a dust-free environment for employees," Baxa said, as he pointed out the filtering system inside, and the two large white filter bins outside which contain

Continued on page 3

# Be Wise to the Ways of the Rays

By John Schlageck, Kansas Farm Bureau

The next time you take time out of the sun, dust off one of those old family photo albums. You know the ones that date back to the '30s, '40s, '50s and even early '60s. If your family farmed you'll see photos of your relatives attired in widebrimmed hats.

Look at their shirts. You'll see they wore loosefitting, long-sleeved, lightcolored garments.

Now fast forward to the late '60s and early '70s; clothing styles have changed. You don't see too many long-sleeved shirts any longer. Broad-brimmed hats have been replaced with ball caps proclaiming

seed, feed, tractors and just about any company logo under the sun.

Today's farmer no longer wears the clothing of yesteryear - clothing that afforded protection from the sun's ultraviolet rays. Instead he/she wears a smaller, softer, snug-fitting cap that will not blow off and bump into machinery. Farmers like their hats cheap or free and they want them colorful.

This ball cap is comfortable and affordable, but it does not protect the temples, the tender, delicate ear tips and the back of the neck. The low-profile cap doesn't extend far enough to guard against the sun.

Numerous studies have been tracking skin cancer and the sun's harmful impact on farmers and other segments of our society since the early '80s.

An estimated 73,870 new cases of invasive melanoma will be diagnosed in the United States in 2015, says Holly Higgins, safety director for Kansas Farm Bureau. An estimated 9,940 people will die of melanoma in 2015. Melanoma accounts for the vast majority of skin cancer deaths.

Ultraviolet rays are the leading carcinogenic on the farm today, Higgins notes. But with early diagnosis, treatment is possible. The safety director encourages farmers to insist on inspection for skin cancer as part of their regular physical each year.

"You just can't have sun without skin cancer, unless you take protective measures," Higgins warns. "Dermatologists recommend that anyone working or playing in the sunshine protect their skin completely by wearing clothing and a widebrimmed hat."

Others, including the American Cancer Society say there is a skin-cancer epidemic in this country. The number of cases is rising as fast as or faster than any other tumor being charted today.

A major reason skin cancer may be on the rise is more leisure time and more exposure to the sun. Today, more people spend longer time in the sun and wear less clothing.

While it may be too late for some older farmers and ranchers, education for teens and young farmers on skin cancer may be beneficial later in life.

While working in the sun is something that is unavoidable for some occupations, but there are ways to reduce your exposure to harmful UVA and UVB rays.

"Avoid direct exposure to sunlight - especially between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.," "Wide-Higgins says. brimmed hats, protective clothing and sunscreen with a Sun Protection Factor

(SPF) of 30 all work together to safeguard your skin." Several farm supply stores and catalogs offer specialized clothing and headwear made with sun protective fabrics to help you avoid sunburn, premature aging, immune system suppression and skin cancer.

Today's farmers and ranchers would be well advised to take a chapter out of their dusty old family albums. To return to those days of floppy, widebrimmed straw hats and long-sleeved, baggy cotton shirts.

Who knows?

Maybe they could start a new fashion craze as well as protect their skin from the damaging rays of the sun.

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

### Campbell named director of activities for **NALF**

Katie Campbell has been selected as the new director of activities for the North American Limousin Foundating (NALF), effective June 1, 2015.

Campbell is from Leavenworth and graduated from Kansas State University this past May. She has been a part of the Limousin breed for 12 years. In 2011 she was selected for the North American Limousin Junior Association Board of Directors and served as president from 2013-2014. She was also a driving force behind the first bi-annual POWER Leadership Conference for the junior membership.

She is headquartered at the NALF office in Englewood, Colo. Campbell can be reached at katie@ nalf.org, primary phone: 303.220.1693 extension 43, or cell phone: 913.683.1415.



A three-day gap in the neverending monsoon season, that is what we seemed to have this week. Of course that led to a feverish charge into planting soybeans. Neither Dad nor I are even talking about baling hav until the soybeans are safely nestled in the soil (or mud in some places). I am still not complaining about the rain but I am grumbling under my breath about the mounting list of things that are behind schedule.

A schedule - you have a schedule on your farm? Yes, we do have kind of a schedule in our minds of when we would like to have crops planted by, hay baled by, etc. I am sure everyone is that way – a certain date that you start planting on and a certain date that you want the crop in the ground by. However, farming and ranching is an inexact science and often planting dates are just a suggestion, unless you are talking crop insurance and then there are hard and fast dates. Funny how that

It occurred to me that setting a schedule on a farm is a little like being a weather person. You can set up a schedule, just like they can give it is close to correct. But in the end, control over and your schedule, like their forecast, is just your best

So back to the problem at hand. Monday it was finally dry enough that we could reasonably plant most of the fields. Sure, there were some wet spots but we had reached the time of the year when you could not wait for perfect conditions or even good conditions. The crop had to go in. We were full steam ahead.

Full steam ahead until the tractor had other ideas. Late Monday, we started to notice a problem with the tractor, it started to surge and act like it wasn't getting enough fuel. Several quick fixes out in the field were tried but none seem to make much difference. It was painful but we limped through the rest of the day and finished the field up.

The next morning dawned bright, hot and dry. We were optimistically hopeful about our ability to fix the fuel problem. That optiquick fuel filter change and a check yet, but we are a little closer.

of the fuel lines. It was obvious that we were going to have to shut down and wait on professional help. That professional help was mechanical, but professional help of the mental kind might have also been needed. In any year it is hard to be shut down but this year it was excruciatingly painful.

In the middle of all of this, I had to go with Ike and pick up a ram he had delivered to Lincoln, Nebraska. That is another story for another column but it did help to pass the time instead of waiting on the mechanic to arrive at our house after saving some other panicked farmer. On my way home from Nebraska I got a call from Dad that the mechanic was there and we would soon be up and

Just a little later, I got another call again from Dad that things did not look good and the tractor might have to go back to the dealership. Dollar signs started to enter my head, but more excruciatingly, time – a week or more – was also an issue. The planting season from, well... you know where, just got a little worse and harder to take.

I got Ike and his sheep home, you a forecast, and most of the time unloaded and situated and I hurried back to the scene of the crime, exthere really isn't anything you have pecting the worst. When I got there I walked up, almost too scared to ask for an update. For once this season the update was good. The injector pump seemed to be fine but there was a cracked filter housing for the second fuel filter. A relatively easy fix except the part was not in stock and would not be here until Thursday (the day that the rain was supposed to start). So once again we were shut down, waiting on a twenty-dollar part.

That was when the mechanic suggested we could make a temporary fix if we had a short piece of small tube. I have to say that what he did with a tube off of a grease gun and two small hose clamps was nothing short of miraculous. Okay, so I am getting carried away here but I was pretty happy and excited that we would be able to salvage part of the day and all of the next day because of the quick thinking. Maybe after all, this never-ending planting season might be coming closer to mism faded rather quickly after a ending. We are not back on schedule



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### Cutting edge opportunities await new leaders in Kansas

"Big shoes will be needed to walk in the path of those that stepped up before us," announced Al Davis, president of Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership, Inc. Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership, Inc. announced the thirteenth and 25th anniversary class of the KARL Program during a special celebration recently.

The KARL, Inc. board of directors, graduates and donors celebrated the announcement of the 30 newest members of the advanced statewide leadership training experience. KARL Class XIII (2015-2017) was introduced at the K-State Union, Manhattan. The KARL Program is a twoyear educational experience offering intensive study, training and travel for emerging leaders in agriculture and rural communities.

According to program director Al Davis, KARL Class XIII represents both the small Kansas community and urban viewpoints. "We took five days the first full week of May to interview the screened group of 51 finalists. Ten to 11 interviews per day for five days in early May was both grueling and rewarding for teams of KARL board members and alumni."

"The 30 members of the new class were incredibly excited to get the notice calls and humbled by the selection due to the competitiveness of the candidate pool. The class average age has risen from 35 for Class XII to 37 for Class XIII. The diversity is amazing and we also picked up a new county so KARL will now have a footprint of 390 participants in 103 of our 105 counties," Davis added.

"Our new leaders will be participating in nine instate seminars in every region of Kansas. Study tours over the two years will include a national seminar entitled Blue Chip, which is an executive review of a Fortune 500 corporation's strategic management processes; a tour to Washington D.C. studies decision making on the federal level and an International Study Tour will be the capstone learning event in 2017," added Davis.

Evening presentations provided the much anticipated details of the KARL

Class XIII two-year training programs study tour. "The class will be headed south. The International Study Tour will take Class XIII to the country of Chile. The South American country is a rapidly growing into a major competitor and partner in feeding the world," according to Davis.

Davis added, "To ensure KARL can continue its work developing leadership excellence, we need your support. The new Class XIII members will soon begin attending seminars. Their first year includes economic literacy instruction, communications training, conflict management exposure and the development of valuable contacts at the local, state and national levels. The second year focuses on biosecurity, energy, water conservation, food safety, trade balance issues and ends with a study tour to experience the culture, political system and agriculture of a competitor and trading partner. By learning about the world, as well as local and national issues, KARL graduates are prepared to take on today's critical chal-

KARL's mission is to provide first-class leadership development for agricultural and rural stakeholders by designing and offering challenging and illuminating education and enrichment programs as well as a forum for continuous engagement. The organizations vision is to be the preferred partner in developing excellence in agricultural and rural leadership.

The KARL training experience carries a value of nearly \$20,000 per person. Since no tax revenues are utilized for the program, funding is provided by contributions from the private sector. Donations from individuals, organizations, companies, corporations and foundations provide over 4/5ths of the programs budget. The participants pay a tuition fee of \$2,000 each of the two years for the remaining costs. People wishing to invest in their own future by supporting the program can make their tax deductible contributions directly to KARL at 101 Umberger Hall, Manhattan KS 66506. Call (785) 532-6300 for more information.

Members of the new

Kellie Allen, Parsons -Veterinarian, Allen Veterinary Center

Lori Bammerlin, Council Grove - Agriculture & Natural Resources/ 4-H Agent, Flint Hills Extension Dis-

Chris Boyd, Medicine Lodge - Crop and Cattle Production Mgr. Boyd Farms,

Barry Brandstetter, Overland Park-Commercial Mgr.,

Billy Brown, Manhattan-Agribusiness Development, Kansas Department of Agriculture

Trista Brown Priest, Satanta -Rancher/Chief Strategy Officer, Cattle Empire

Craig Carnahan, Altamont - Farmer, Carnahan Farms LLC

Michelle Cerne, Altamont - Sr VP/Loan Officer, Community National Bank Nathan Eck, Little River

Senior Location Mgr, MKC -Andy Fahrmeier, Garden City - Construction- Western Kansas Division Mgr, Hutton

Construction Tim Flax, Hays - VP Information Technology, Midwest Energy

Matt Foos, Spearville -Farm Management/Real Estate Agent, Farmers National Company

Frances Gorman Graves,

Bartlett - Ranch Assistant/Media Analyst, Graves Cattle and Equipment Anna Govert-Young, Ch-

eney - Credit Analyst, American AgCredit Amy Heinemann, Garden

City - Executive Assistant, Finnup Foundation Trust Trisha Janssen, Geneseo

Rancher with Janssen Ranch/Service Administrator w/Carrico Implement Dustin Kuntz, Har-

veyville- Agricultural Retailer, Harveyville Seed Co.,

Kathy LaScala, Eudora -Agricultural Advertising, Lee Publications

Jesse Luckie, Ashland -Manager/Stock Holder -Rancher and Farm Producer, Snake Creek Ranch Co.

Laura Moffet, Stockton -Coordinator for Phillips/ Rooks County Farm Bureau

Clarke Nelson, Long Island - Production Farm Manager, Nelson Farms Inc/ Valley Feeds

Brad Parker, Topeka -Communications & Public Relations, Kansas Sovbean Association

City - Member Services Representative Wheatland Electric

Wyatt Rundel, Wichita -Relationship Mgr. Bank of the West

Ben Schrag, Canton Farmhand/Accountant, Emma Creek Farms

Andrew Sigle, Osborne -

Farmer/Rancher, Cheyenne Trail Ranch LLC Tony Wedel, Moundridge Sales/Owner-Mgr., AG 360

Nick Weibert, Abilene -Feed Sales and Consultation, Cow Town Nutrition

LLC

LaVell Winsor, Grantville - Farmer with Winsor Farms and Farm Consultant w/ KSU and Loewen & Assoc.

Mallory Wittstruck, Beloit - Agricultural Communications, Farmway Co-op

To view more information regarding the new class, alumni, the curriculum or program goals visit the web site www.karlprogram.com/.



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### Polansky Seed opens new seed cleaning facility

Continued from page 1

dust filters.

Then, there's the Color Sorter, a new piece of equipment for Polansky which is unmatched in its capability, Baxa emphasized.

"The Color Sorter is one of the most advanced pieces of technology. To be able to sort by color and shape, is something that no other plant in Kansas does for wheat. So, that's a very big added benefit, and then of course the capacity that we have is going to be important for us, with the volume of wheat that we handle, nowadays," Baxa said.

A one-touch monitor screen is vital for the facility's operation. The entire plant is controlled from that computer.

"I think the most exciting thing is being able to operate this plant from that touch-screen. Everything will be controlled by the touch-screen panel. You'll see exactly what you're cleaning, where it's going, how it's being cleaned... all from that touch-screen panel," said Baxa. course, we'll still have to monitor the machines, but just being able to operate that plant from that aspect, is amazing," Baxa observed.

Baxa noted that this technology, the sensors and the control system, are actually used in a lot of different industries, and then also adapted for the seed cleaning facility.

Morning thunderstorms

relocated the official ribbon cutting ceremony indoors, which was part of a formal program featuring Kansas State University officials and professors, as well as representatives from the Kansas Wheat Alliance, Agripro and Limagrain, and OGI (Oklahoma Genetics, Inc.) and others who provided updates on the future of wheat genetics. Public tours were offered, so that producers and the community could examine the latest in seedcleaning technology and learn about forthcoming developments in the wheat, soybean, sorghum and corn industry.

According to some of the experts, the outlook for wheat production and wheat seed could possibly dramatically change the way farmers grow wheat, with new hybrids and genetics coming out in the near future.

Three power point presentations were shown with the horizontal white side of the semi truck as the background. Two of the presentations were virtual tours of the wheat plot, which is growing just outside the facility. The third presentation offered a virtual tour of the new Polansky facility.

In addition to the launch of the seed cleaning facility, Polansky also plans to increase bulk storage by 200,000 bushels, and make other additions, as they continue to help farmers feed a growing global pop-



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Grass & Grain, June 16, 2015

# GRASS Our Daily Bread \* \* \* \* \* \* \* By G&G Area Cooks \* \* \* \*

### Crystal Miles of Lawrence wins recipe contest with Rosy Rhubarb Puff

#### ROSY RHUBARB PUFF Crystal Miles, Lawrence

This time of year, we enjoy harvesting the rhubarb plants from our edible landscaping and baking up this family favorite.

- 3 cups cut-up rhubarb 1 pint strawberries, cut-up
- 1½ cup sugar
- ¼ cup water
- 2 cups all- purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 2/3 cup milk

Pre-heat oven to 450 degrees.

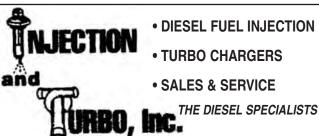
Mix rhubarb, strawberries, 1½ cups sugar & water in 9inch square pan. Cook 5 minutes.

Measure flour, 2 tablespoons sugar, baking powder and salt into bowl. Stir in oil and milk until mixture forms a ball and clean sides of bowl.

Drop dough by 9 spoonsful onto the hot fruit.

If desired, sprinkle dough with extra sparkle (1/2 cup)sugar). Bake 20-25 minutes.

Serve warm with cream. Yield 9 servings.



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#### Barbara Barthol, Olathe PICKLED OKRA

Mix and boil 1 pint white vinegar

1 quart water 1/3 cup canning salt

Fill HOT PINT jars with small pods of okra, packing tightly - don't cut ends off of pods but can trim stem end

Add to each jar 1/2 teaspoon dill seed

1 tablespoon pickling

pinch of alum 1/6th of a peeled clove of

Add vinegar water salt

mixture to each jar Seal and hot water bath (have boiling when jars go

Let boil for 10 minutes,

set out on rack to cool.

Any that might not seal can be stored in refrigerator and stay good for quite a while. Those that did seal can be stored and eaten, have saved some up to 2 years and still good. DELICIOUS!!!

# **GRAVY WITH NOODLES**

Nancy Horne, Alta Vista

**HAMBURGER MILK** 

Nancy says she was not sure about putting the peas in, but she did and it was good.

8 oz. ground turkey or beef

2 cups milk

3 tablespoons flour

1/2 cup canned sliced mushrooms, drained 1/2 cup peas

1 teaspoon parsley flakes 1/8 teaspoon pepper

1 1/2 cups cooked noodles.

In large skillet sprayed with cooking spray, brown the meat. In a covered jar add the milk and flour and mix. Pour into the meat mixture. Add mushrooms, peas, parsley flakes and pepper. Stir until mixture starts to thicken. Add cooked noodles, and mix well. Continue cooking until gravy is thick. Serves

Cooking tip from Food Network Magazine's 100 Greatest Cooking Tips Of All Time

After working with garlic, rub your hands vigorously on your stainless steel sink for 30 seconds before washing them. It will remove the odor

-- Gerard Craft, Niche and Taste, St. Louis



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### Honoring the 60th anniversary of Grass & Grain with this 1969 recipe from our archives

OUR DAILY BREAD

- by G&G Area Cooks

# Contest Prize To Mrs. Delton Beikman Of Linn

Winner is Mrs. Delton Beikman, Linn: "We look forward to the Grass & Grain paper each week. I always turn to the "Our Daily Bread" page first. Here is a quick & easy dessert. Cooling and refreshing this hot weather.

QUICK DESSERT

1 small box of vanilla pudding & pie filling 1 8-ounce can of fruit cocktail

18-ounce can of crushed pineapple 1 tablespoon butter or margarine

Measure syrups and add water to equal 2 cups. Combine contents of package and liquid in a saucepan. Cool and stir over medium heat to a full boll. Remove from heat. Stir in fruit and 1 tablespoon of butter. Chill in dessert glasses or bowl, Makes 6 servings.

# Rhubarb, Not Just For **Pies Any More**

By Cindy Williams, **Meadowlark Extension** District Agent, Food & Nutrition, FNP

Rhubarb may be known as the pie plant, but it is much more versatile than that. This tart stalk, colored deep red and topped with broad, bright-green leaves, grows in backyards and around farm buildings without much attention. The brightly colored stalks can be found in supermarkets as well as in farmers' markets during the season. Some children even like to chew the stalks once it has been picked. Rhubarb, a spring tonic for vitamin C and calcium, is an easy and versatile fruit to use, although it provides only a moderate source of fiber. One of the drawbacks is that because it is so tart, most recipes call for more sugar than most other desserts. As with other vegetables, two cups cooked rhubarb is considered a serving. A serving without sugar is only 29 calories, but with sugar it is 139 calories. By combing the stalks with fruits, like strawberries, the sugar content can be lowered quite a bit.

Field-grown rhubarb is on the market shelves between April and June in most areas. Choose stalks that are well-colored, goodsized, straight, and firm. Sometimes, rhubarb is sold with the leaves attached; they should be fresh-looking and crisp. Avoid stalks that are wilted or flabby. After cutting off the leaves, wash the stalks. Store them in a plastic bag in the crisper of the refrigerator. Use within one week. (Cau-

tion: rhubarb leaves contain a toxic substance that makes them poisonous. Be sure the leaves are removed before using the stalks. Discard them without cooking or eating.)

Before cooking, trim stalks at the top and bottom. Trim any bruised spots. Wash stalks. For sauces or stewing, cut the rhubarb into 1" to 2" chunks. If the stalks are fresh, the fibers can be cut easily and will soften when cooked. The two popular cooking methods include baking and stewing for sauces. Rhubarb sauce is made by placing the cut pieces in a saucepan. A stainless steel or Teflon-coated pan is preferred. Rhubarb is a highly acidic and may react to some metals such as aluminum. Add 2/3 cup of water to the pan, and bring to a boil. Add 4 cups of cut rhubarb (six to eight stalks). Reduce heat, and simmer over low heat for about five minutes, or until rhubarb is tender. Add sugar to taste; between 3/4 to one cup is sufficiently sweet for most people. If you like less sugar, start with a smaller amount and taste-test the fruit before serving. Cold rhubarb sauce will not taste as sweet. Consider making this rhubarb recipe for a change of pace.

Rhubarb Salsa

2 cups fresh rhubarb, finely diced

2 cup sweet red pepper,

chopped 2 cup sweet yellow pepper, chopped

2 cup fresh cilantro

3 green onions, finely chopped

1 chili pepper, minced and seeded

2 Tablespoons fresh lime iuice

Brown sugar to taste Salt to taste Ground black pepper to

Wash hands and work

area. Blanch rhubarb in a saucepan in boiling water for 10 seconds. Strain under cold water, drain. Place in a glass bowl. Add remaining ingredients; mix well. Store in refrigerator no longer than one week.

**Nutrition Facts:** 

Calories-140, Total fat-1 g, Cholesterol-0 mg, Sodium-15 mg, Carbohydrate-31 g, Fiber-7 g and Protein-4 g.

A new way of eating is making its way through the country. It's moving slowly, thoughtfully and mindfully.

University of Missouri Extension nutrition and health specialist Vera Massey invites people to stop and smell the roses. Massey offers tips on how to focus on the present.

Mindful eating is eating with intention and attention, she says. Mindful eating is much more than just eating slowly. Appreciate, respect and enjoy the food you eat each day, she says. Be aware of physical hunger cues. Distinguish them from hunger triggered by emotions. Food won't cure cravings caused by your emotions.

When you take cues from your body, you avoid eating in response to emotions. "Not everyone is an emotional eater, but everyone's decisions are affected by their emotions. Learn to manage your emotions, not your food," she says. "Ride out the wave of craving."

Mindful eating is not a diet, she says, but you might find that you eat less as a result. "Mindful eating is about balancing how you eat with what you eat.'

There are no recipes, menus or rules. Unlike programs that restrict or prohibit certain foods, mindful eating encourages participants to take small portions of foods they like. "What you resist persists and gets amplified," she says. Guilt control also helps cravings subside.

The first way to become more mindful is to tune in to your breathing, she says. In her classes, she demonstrates how to sit comfortably, feel your breath and return to breathing. This calms the body and strengthens brain func-

Massey gives the four S's for mindful eating: Sit down, Savor each bite, Slow down and Stay in the present.

She also urges class participants to disconnect from technology and avoid multitasking while eating. Otherwise, you'll miss the chance to savor the appearance, smell, flavor and texture of each bite.

Start your day off with a breakfast that includes protein. Let your body tell you when you are full and satisfied. Mindful eating promotes mindful cooking.

Be kind to yourself. If your resistance wears down, forgive yourself and get back on track.

# **Thirsty? Make the Best Beverage Choices** Often

By Nancy C. Nelson, Meadowlark District Agent, **Family Life** 

Offer plenty of liquids throughout the day to stay hydrated, especially when the weather is hot. What you drink matters-for your wallet and health!

With meals, as well as between meals, most of the time offer plain cool water.

Preferably, choose tap water and drink from reusable containers. Or, flavor plain water by adding slices of lemon or cucumber, or a small splash of 100% juice. In addition to water, all family members are advised to drink 2 to 3 cups, depending on their age, daily of fat-free or lowfat milk or a milk alterna-

When buying beverages at the store, look at the Nutrition Facts label to choose ones with no or few calories, fats or sugars. If you do select a beverage high in calories, fats or sugars, keep the portions small.

Your body loses water every day. When the amount of water lost is greater than the amount of water you take in through drinking and eating, your body becomes out of balance-a condition called dehydration. Thirst is not the most reliable gauge of your body's need for water. The color of your urine is a better indicator. Clear or lightcolored urine is a sign you

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### WWGD?

#### By Lou Ann Thomas

After begging for rain the last couple of years, our prayers were finally answered - all at once!! I can't believe it, but I am no longer excited when the forecast indicates rain. That's not all due to the fact I'm difficult to please, but rather the recent rains sent water flowing into both the back and front of my base-

Having lost everything when a flash flood raced through my house ten years ago, when water began running under my walkout basement door, I panicked. Not again! Not another flood! Shortly after that I stepped into a back room of the basement and heard running water. "This can't be good," I thought. And it wasn't. Water was running

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of dehydration. Other signs

include headaches, tired-

ness, dry mouth, dry skin,

constipation, and feeling



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ing, practical, inventive woman who I had often watched use whatever was at hand to solve whatever problem she was facing.

In a flash I knew that Grandma would use the absorbency and easy access of newspapers to wrap around the pipes. So I did that, then I wrapped those in old towels and plastic. It did slow the water invasion some and a big tub placed under the pipes caught most of what was coming in. With regular emptying of the tub, I was able to stay ahead of the stream of water invading my

home. So one of the most important things I learned in this experience is that, technology can be good and helpful for many things. It can connect us and allow us to access a world of information, but sometimes, the best solutions are "old school" and

come from the wisdom of

those who have gone before

Page 5

That's why from now on, when faced with something that appears to have no solution, I'm going to remember to ask, "What would Grandma do?"







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### Movement restriction issued for poultry events, exhibitions and sales issued in Kansas

In an effort to protect the Kansas poultry industry and to promote stronger biosecurity practices throughout the state, Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Animal Health has issued a stop movement order, signed by Secretary of Agriculture Jackie Mc-Claskey, targeting Kansas poultry and live birds, effectively cancelling all poultryrelated shows and events

through calendar year 2015. This includes all types of poultry activities where birds from different flocks are co-mingled.

This will include, but is not limited to: regional and county fairs, festivals, the Kansas State Fair, swap meets, exotic sales and live bird auctions. This measure is being implemented in an effort to prevent the spread of highly pathogenic H5N2

avian influenza (HPAI). Kansas experienced a positive case of HPAI in Leavenworth County in 2015.

This decision was made after careful consideration and consultation with K-State Research and Extension, Kansas 4-H. Kansas State Fair representatives and other poultry industry officials. Dr. Justin Smith. deputy animal health commissioner, made the announcement.

"The decision to issue

movement restrictions regarding poultry and bird events has been made in an effort to protect the poultry industry in Kansas and the economic contribution that the industry makes to our agricultural economy. It is a difficult decision, as I know youth and adults would soon be exhibiting their projects at local fairs," said Smith. "This decision was not made lightly, but it is necessary we do everything possible to protect the Kansas poultry flock."

K-State Research and Extension and Kansas 4-H, along with the Kansas State Fair, is working to identify options for youth enrolled in poultry projects to showcase their learning and participate in fairs in ways other than having their birds present.

It is important that all poultry producers continue to monitor their flocks for symptoms of the virus, and notify KDA immediately if

they suspect any problems. All bird owners, whether commercial producers or backyard enthusiasts, should prevent contact between their birds and other birds including wild fowl.

If you see sickness in birds, please contact KDA Division of Animal Health at (785) 564-6601 or email HPAI@kda.ks.gov. Additional information about HPAI can be found online at www.agriculture.ks.gov/avia



# Spring rainfall causes late tillers in some Kansas wheat

By Mary Lou Peter

Recent abundant rainfall resulted in a flush of new growth in some Kansas wheat fields, sparking development of late-developing tillers. In some areas. the new tillers have created a second canopy of green heads along with the main canopy of ripe heads, according to Kansas State University's Jim Shroyer.

Rainfall across the state averaged 7.73 inches in May, which was 188 percent of normal and the third highest May average in 120 years, according to the Kansas Weather Data Li-

"Wheat heads that form this late in the season in a crop otherwise nearing maturity usually add very little to the overall yield of a field," said Shroyer, who is a crop production specialist emeritus with K-State Research and Extension. "If these late, green heads are not close to being ready to harvest when the majority

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of the crop has dried down, it's best to start harvesting the field anyway."

Waiting for the green heads to mature would risk grain losses due to shattering or hail damage, he said. With wheat varieties that tend to shatter easily, producers should start harvesting when the field reaches 15 percent moisture.

Most of the immature grain and green plant parts will go out the back of the combine when the crop is harvested, but enough may go into the bin to increase the dockage and overall moisture level of the load.

Combine settings can help minimize the problem, but not eliminate it. Any immature grain that goes out the back of the combine could result in greater-than-usual amounts of volunteer wheat this summer – a situation Shroyer encourages producers to monitor closely and control accordingly.

"The situation is a little different where the main canopy is several weeks away from being mature," he said. "In this instance, the green tillers could develop quickly enough to add a significant amount to the yield potential. Still, unless the green tillers make up more than half of the heads in the fields, it's probably best to just start harvesting when the majority of heads are ready to go if there is a maturity difference of several days or more between the ripest and least developed heads."

Waiting for the green heads to ripen might lead to shattering of the more mature heads, he added.

Growers who are harvesting wheat with some green heads present should take special care to measure the moisture content of the grain if they plan to store it on the farm, and use air aggressively to dry it if the moisture content is high, Shrover said.

In its weekly update, the U.S. Department of Agriculture rated Kansas wheat 2 percent excellent, 28 percent good, 41 percent fair, 19 percent poor and 10 percent very poor as of June 7. At 98 percent, almost all of the crop had headed, near 99 percent at the same time last year and the five-year average.

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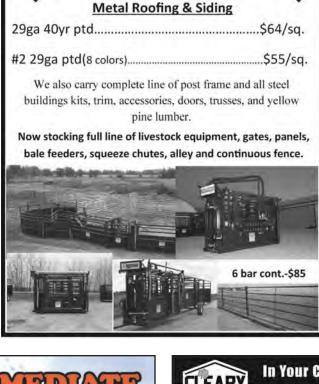
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### Ever Faithful

The story of Captain Woodrow Call taking the body of Augustus McCrae home to Texas for burial immortalized their friendship in the television mini-series Lonesome Dove. In real life Charlie Goodnight brought the body of his partner Oliver Loving back from Fort Sumner, New Mexico, for burial in the cemetery at Weatherford, Texas.

Goodnight's dedication to his friend revealed a bond that often formed between men as they made their way across the endless plains on the "long drive" to the end of the trail. Goodnight and Loving had built cattle operations together and trailed cattle many miles over several years. The bond was certain. The bond could be nurtured in many ways.

Robert B. Johnson was born in Alabama. He was four years old when his parents moved to Texas in 1838 By the middle 1850s Robert was ranching with his brother Henry near Columbus, Texas, approximately sixtyfive miles west of Houston.

George Glenn was born a

slave March 8, 1850, on the Johnson Ranch. Glenn naturally learned all the tools of ranching. Following the Civil War herds of cattle were driven out of Texas to northern markets. The Johnson brothers followed the cattle markets closely and were among the first to realize the tremendous profit that could be made driving to Kansas.

By 1870, the Johnsons needed no more convincing and determined to drive

their own cattle to Abilene, Kansas. On June 11 eight hundred of Robert and Henry Johnson's select beef cattle were placed on the trail to Abilene with the "Scissors" road brand. The Johnsons were joined by the usual complement of drovers, including their former slave George Glenn who

had stayed on to cowboy

after the war.

In Abilene merchants were looking forward and actively preparing for the 1870 cattle season with new laws in place to curb the violence on their streets. Throughout its short existence, the wild cowboy had reined supreme on the streets of "The Gomorrah of the Plains." The Topeka Commonwealthdeclared during the 1869 season that, "At this writing Hell is now in session in Abilene." A maniacal "round the clock" celebration of life became the rule in Abilene.

By the time the Johnson herd arrived in late August Abilene had a new marshal who was more than capable for the job. Tom Smith took control of Abilene in a way no one had expected. When the cowboys were in town guns were checked in the local business houses. When they were ready to leave the guns were returned. There were still occasional shootings but the violence was greatly reduced from the daily commotion that had plagued the town.

To be sure, trail cowboys still swarmed through the streets of Abilene celebrating "for fun and frolic." William Baxter Slaughter witnessed first-hand the kind of trouble that could be served up in Abilene to an unsuspecting cowboy. As soon as the herd went into camp the boys wanted to go to town. Straws were drawn and half the outfit lit out for the bright lights. One young man by the name of Wash Wolf immediately went on a spree as soon as he hit Abilene. The next thing the outfit heard was the news that Wash had been killed in one of Abilene's notorious dance halls.

Johnson outfit The steered clear of trouble for the two months they were in camp. Robert Johnson sold his cattle sometime in late September or early October, but success abruptly turned to tragedy when Robert Johnson suddenly fell ill and died. At least that was the story George Glenn told when he returned home. An obscure history of the Johnson family recorded "Killed in a Bar room fight in Abilene" in reference to the tragic event.

Glenn paid for Johnson's burial and returned home, but the distraught family

#### Grass & Grain, June 16, 2015

wanted their loved one brought home and buried in the family plot. When everyone balked at returning to Abilene for Robert's body, George Glenn volunteered.

He rode back to Kansas alone. In September, 1871. Glenn had the body of his boss exhumed. The casket was placed in a Studebaker wagon for a lonely return trip to Columbus, Texas. Each night Glenn slept in the wagon next to the casket to make certain that it was

After forty-two days on the trail Robert Branch

Page 7 Johnson was laid to rest in the family plot, bringing to a close a remarkable story of loyalty that knows no bounds. Ever faithful, George Glenn lived by the precepts that had been nurtured by a life of honor and devotion on The Way West.

"The Cowboy," Jim Gray is author of the book Desperate Seed: Ellsworth Kansas on the Violent Frontier and Executive Director of the National  $Drovers\ Hall\ of\ Fame.\ Contact$ Kansas Cowboy, Box 62, Ellsworth, KS 67439. Phone 785-531-2058.

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# NCGA highlights sustainability, soil health at White House meeting

The National Corn Growers Association joined more than a dozen organizations and companies at the White House recently to emphasize how the agricultural supply chain works together to advance sustainability and discuss how the federal government can help support this work.

As part of the White House Ag Sustainability Roundtable, Dr. Nick Goeser highlighted NCGA's active participation in Field to Market and NCGA's administration of the Soil Health Partnership (SHP) programs designed to document and demonstrate the value of best management systems for conservation and sustainability, and ultimately reduce the environmental impact of agriculture. As part of this commitment, the Soil Health Partnership will expand its SHP Demonstration Farm Network from 40 to 100 farms by 2018.

"Everyone across the ag supply chain has a role to play and a responsibility with conservation, but no one organization or company can do it alone," said Goeser, who serves as director of the Soil Health Partnership. "We all must work together to understand the environmental impact at each point in the supply chain and adopt the best systems to reduce our environmental footprint."

The Roundtable included representatives from the White House Council for Environmental Quality, USDA, and one of the President's top advisors on environmental issues.

The mission of the Soil Health Partnership is to catalyze enhanced agricultural sustainability and productivity by helping farmers lead the way to demonstrate



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# Women in Farming Workshop July 11 to feature soil health and cover crops, grazing management, specialty crop production

2015, the Kansas Rural Center will sponsor an all day women-only workshop and Flint Hills Technical Col-

On Saturday, July 11, series of educational workshops for women farmers or want-to-be farmers, women landowners, and women infarm tour from 9 a.m. to 5 terested in sustainable p.m., in Emporia, at the farming and food production. The workshop will inlege. This is the fourth in a clude a morning presenta-

tion on the importance of building soil health and the value of cover crops by Candace Thomas and Alex Miller from USDA NRCS. ONLINE UNRESERVED AUCTION · BigIron.com

Dale Kirkham, grass and grazing specialist, will talk about Livestock and Grazing Management Practices. Dan Phelps, KRC staff member, specialty crop grower and primary author of KRC's 2014 Growing Under Cover publication, will present on Specialty Crop Production in High Tunnels. In addition, materials on Farm Service Agency loan programs, USDA NRCS conservation programs, and other resources on crop insurance, organic and specialty crop production practices and resources, will be available. At 2 p.m. the workshop will move to Gail Fuller's

farm near Emporia for a

farm tour and presentation on carbon farming as part of a no-till cover crop system, crop rotations, and small livestock enterprises recently adopted. Dale Kirkham will also be on hand to host a Native Prairie and Grass tour to close out the day.

"Women farmers are increasing in number. And they are interested in small livestock and specialty crop production for direct marketing and as additional enterprises on the farm, as well as in crop and livestock farming. Also, according to research, women will inherit much of the land that is expected to change hands in the next twenty years," stated Mary Fund, executive director of the Kansas Rural Center. "As women, we need to be better prepared to

manage farms and land and make decisions. Our workshops introduce women to farming practices, ideas and information helpful to them as they make decisions today and plan for the future."

To register for the workshop, please visit: http:// kansasruralcen-

ter.org/women-in-farmingworkshop-4/.

Fees are \$15/per person, to cover lunch and snacks. The agenda is available at: http://kansasruralcenter.org/ wp-content/uploads /2015/06/ RME-Women-in-Farming-Workshop-4-Emporia\_ AGENDA.pdf.

For attendees coming in early, KRC will host a roundtable discussion with women farmers, and a social hour, on Friday evening July 10 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Guesthouse Inn and Conference Center at 2700 W. 18th Ave. in Emporia. KRC has reserved a block of rooms; just tell the hotel you are with KRC and the Women in Farming Workshop. To RSVP for the Friday night Roundtable, please http://kansasruralcenter.org/ women-in-farming-workshop-4/.

For more information, email Joanna Voigt at jvoigt@kansasruralcenter.or g, or call 866-579-5469. The workshop is funded by a grant from the USDA Risk Management Agency and the Kansas Rural Center. Co-sponsors are the Kansas Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Alternative Crops and the Kansas Sustainable Agriculture Research Program.

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# Kansas managing wheat disease

Weather conditions in Kansas have been ideal this year for the development of wheat disease. The same is true all across wheat country with most areas experiencing two to three years of drought followed by plentiful rainfall this spring. Stripe rust is a common wheat disease being managed through the middle of the United States from Texas to North Dakota. It has been widely noted in Kansas wheat fields. Farmers are also encouraged to scout for vomitoxin or Fusarium head blight, par-

ticularly in southeast Kansas. Weather conditions have also been ideal for flag smut, a fungus found in the United States, but not known in Kansas since the

During the week of May 6, 2015, wheat flag smut (Urocystis tritici) was initially detected in a field demonstration plot in Rooks County and confirmed by laboratory result during regular and on-going disease survey work. KSU and KDA have jointly conducted field surveys since 1976 and KDA is working closely with KSU Plant Pathology and USDA APHIS PPQ to do additional disease surveys to determine the severity and breadth of the outbreak. Of the 64 fields surveyed the

week of June 1, only two presumptive positive tests have been detected.

More information about the spread of the disease will be available late this week. "Flag smut presents no human or animal health concern. has no impact on grain quality and is expected to move through the normal supply chain. It can have a negative impact on wheat yield, the severity of which is determined by the infestation level of the field" said Jeff Vogel, KDA Plant Protection and Weed Control program manager. Yield loss from flag smut is anticipated to be less than that caused by the stripe rust present this year.

Flag smut spores can live in the soil and survive in wheat relative plant species allowing the disease to potentially maintain a lowby planting seed treated with one of several available fungicides.

KDA Plant Protection and Weed Control will work with K-State Research and Extension and the Kansas wheat industry to provide best management practices for farmers to prevent flag smut in the coming crop year including planting treated seed. The Kansas Department of Agriculture's mission includes serving farmers and protecting plant health in order to help ensure the continued strong contribution of agriculture to the state's economy.

For additional information on wheat diseases in Kansas. check www.agriculture.ks.gov/ppw www. ksre. ksu.edu/wheatpage/ or your local extension office and farm organizations including Kansas Wheat or Kansas



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# I Can't Believe It's Not Butter

tubs that claim to contain something that taste just like real butter. Well, my neighbor, Glenn, thought those containers had a better use than holding makebelieve butter. He kept his teeth in them.

Glenn is a swell guy and a good farmer. I bought a lot of hay from him and that was always an adventure. Hay is hay and it's not too exciting unless it's Glenn's hay. One of his irrigated fields is at the base of the Highland Mountains. The area is semi-arid with rocks, cactus, sage and rattlesnakes. Lots of rattlesnakes.

Square bales out of that field didn't look any different than the ones lower in the valley. You got your thrill with Glenn's hay when you opened the bales to feed vour stock.

Once in a while, like maybe one in every 50 bales. you cut the strings, begin throwing flakes to stock and then come up with a flake

You've seen those vellow and the ugly head and body of a dead rattler in your hand. Wow! An involuntary yell and a rapid heartbeat that lasts a few seconds until you realize the snake is dead are always followed by a few choice words toward Glenn.

> That upper field held lots of rattlers but the swather does a number on them and they end up going through the baler. That's gotta' be tough on the snakes but Glenn didn't mind the snakes ending up in his bales. One summer day, I asked Glenn to ride to Butte with me to pick up supplies. I stopped by his place and picked him up. Glenn got in my pickup and, as usual, he sat a tub of "I Can't Believe It's Not Butter" on the dash and took off the lid. It was half-full of water. He reached in his mouth, removed his full set of false teeth and placed them in the tub. He looked at me and smiled. A toothless grin, I should say. We headed over the mountains

towards town.

He gummed out a few words that I knew by heart.

"I put my teeth in the tub until I get to town because they hurt and I can talk and laugh better without them," he sputtered. "I have some new jokes to tell you and I don't want my teeth falling out when I laugh."

"Do you always keep them in that container?"

"No. Only when they're not in my mouth. Ha, ha." He thought it was funny.

Glenn had lots of jokes and I never heard the same one twice. He was one of Tom Brokaw's Greatest Generation. He fought in World War II but never talked much about it. He once said he was glad we bombed Japan because he had seen enough war in Europe and didn't want to go to the Pacific and fight again. I asked him if he did anything great in the war and he said, "I shot ducks."

"Is that a joke?"

"No, that's no joke. We were surrounded by Germans and my sergeant sent me up a hill with a machine gun and said shoot anything that moves. A flock of ducks flew by so I shot at them."

"Why in the world did you do that?" "Sarge told me to shoot anything that moves! Ha, ha."

Knowing I wouldn't get any more out of him about the war, I changed the subject as we bumped our way over the mountains toward Butte.

> "What about those

snakes I'm always finding in

scare me half to death." A big smile spread across his face and he said, "Don't talk bad about my snakes. They give me lots of laughs. You should hear the funny stories people tell me about what happened when they got surprised by my dead snakes.'

the hay I get from you? They

"You act like it's funny." "It is funny."

"How can rattlesnakes be funny, especially when you grab hold of one in a bale of hay?"

"You'd think it was funny if you heard all the stories I hear from people who bought my hay."

"Why don't you tell them when they buy your hay to watch out for dead rattlers?

"Naw, I don't want to ruin my fun. Besides, I enjoy listening to their stories about the snake in the hay the first time it happened to them." He laughed.

"Somebody could have a heart attack!"

"The snakes won't hurt them, they're dead" he said.

"Doesn't your wife complain about them when she feeds her horses?'

"That's the best part. She used to yell at me every time she found one and I would laugh till I cried. Now she won't feed hay from that field anymore."

We rode along a few minutes in silence. The road was rough and a lot of sections were like a washboard. We hit a washout and **Grass & Grain, June 16, 2015** 

the truck bounced when we went over it. The "I Can't Believe It's Not Butter" tub slid off the dash and fell to the floor. Glenn's teeth, uppers and lowers all connected, chattered around on the floor as we crossed over a bad section of road. We both laughed. His teeth looked like they were shivering as we hit one of the washboards.

Page 9 When the road smoothed out, Glenn picked his teeth up and wiped them clean with the tail of his shirt. He plunked them in his mouth, smiled and said, "How do I look?'

I am glad Glenn was my neighbor.

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

# **ESTATE AUCTION**

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See last week's Grass & Grain for listings & Please visit us online at www.KansasAuctions.net/elston for pictures!

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# **Banned by Metro, Corn Farmers** Coalition effort looks to break new ground in Washington

For the last seven years, many Washington-area residents have marked the arrival of summer by the reappearance of family farmers' faces in the subway cars and stations of the city's massive Metro complex. This year they are likely to be looking at fragrance ads and empty advertising real estate, given the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority's rejection of the Corn Farmers Coalition's well-known annual campaign.

The ads began to go up as scheduled, but installation was halted and the ads removed following a decision by the WMATA board of directors to reject all "issues and advocacy" advertising throughout the system. The move comes after a controversial political group sought to place ads in the Metro featuring a cartoon of the prophet Muhammad, a drawing that was linked to deadly violence in Texas.

development to say the least," said Dan Nerud, a farmer from Dorchester, Nebraska and director on the Nebraska Corn Growers Association. "We think it is important to educate legislators and other thought leaders in our nation's capital about the men and women who grow corn. The Corn Farmers Coalition simply highlights the constantly improving practices and technology that have allowed us to become the most productive farmers in the world, and to do so while making major environmental improvements."

While the diverse ad ampaign is moving forward, with digital and traditional print ads in publications like the Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Politico, The Hill and Roll Call, putting the large-scale ads in heavily trafficked Metro stations around Capitol Hill has become the most recognized element of the

Coalition is investigating several advertising options to address the gap left by the Metro decision including placing television ads during the Sunday morning talk shows in Washington.

"This direct outreach puts a face on today's family farmers and raises overall awareness with legislators, leaders of governmental agencies, think tanks, lobbyists and environmental groups," said Dennis Maple, president of Indiana Corn Marketing Council and farmer from Greentown, Ind. "Awareness of the innovation, technology, and generations of accumulated knowledge represented by family farmers should be a part of our national dialogue about agriculture and

For more information go to: www.cornfarmers coalition.org.

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# Pasture walks to help producers take stock of ecosystems

A typical Kansas pasture on a typical Kansas farm or ranch is a highly complex, species-rich ecosystem that can either be beneficial or detrimental to the producer. Differentiating between the two can be tricky, often involving experimentation as much as experience. Knowing what to look for in a pasture, healthy or otherwise, and being able to better manage that pasture is the focus of five upcoming pasture walks scattered strategically around the state.

Look and Learn Pasture Walks, sponsored in part by Amazing Grazing III, a collaboration between the Kansas Farmers Union and the Kansas Graziers Association, will host the walks in June and July under the facilitation of Dr. Dale Kirkham, retired range

management specialist, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, and local NRCS range special-

"Pasture walks can be very informative for producers to attend," said Keith Harmoney, range scientist for the K-State Agricultural Research Center in Havs. "They'll get to see something different than their own pastures, but also very similar. And because of the informal nature of the discussions taking place among experts as well as other producers, they can get different viewpoints on everything from soil health to managing livestock, and learn different management practices that might help them overcome problems particular to their own area."

The nature of a pasture

ative rather than competitive, an assessment rather than an exhibition. Pastures are chosen for their environmental and ecological components that can have direct bearing on management practices and financial success or failure, Harmoney said. "We select pastures by looking for a range of different ecological sites - different soils and species of plants that will grow on those soils - so producers can see what they are and how they might change as the season progresses," he said. "We offer plant identification to show which are the most desirable and which are the least desirable, and go through various management scenarios or grazing strategies that over

dition of the pasture." Any and all topics are open for discussion. Harmoney added, including wildlife habitat management. "Some producers offer guided hunting services and might be interested in learning about plant di-

time would improve the con-

tat." he said. "It's basically a classroom in a pasture.'

In addition to Harmoney, range specialists include Doug Spencer, NRCS rangeland management specialist, Marion; David Kraft, Diamond K Cattle Co., Gridley; Dale Kirkham, Eureka; Dwayne Rice, NRCS rangeland management specialist, Lincoln; and Dusty Schwandt, NRCS soil conservationist, Marysville.

The walks provide excellent opportunities for producers to see firsthand what works and what doesn't and learn new techniques in problem-solving from peers and specialists alike, Kraft said. "The average producer would benefit by hearing and talking about visual plant and management observations," he said. "It is typically a very informal discussion with opportunities to ask a variety of questions. Plant identification, stocking rates, grazing systems, grazing season length, brush management, burning, etc., are all possibilities for discussion

these walks, but registration is encouraged. Registration can be made online at AmazingGrazingKansas.com by e-mail to Mary Howell at kfu.mary@gmail.com, or by calling Howell at 785-562-8726. Please include your name and the number of people planning to attend so adequate tour arrangements and refreshments can be made. Walk-ins are welcome.

Tours and dates are as follows: Tuesday, June 23, 2 p.m. Southeast Kansas Pasture Walk, Garnett area at Tim Benton's. Tour will begin on 1000 Rd. approximately two miles east of U.S. 169 at Welda, or 1/2 mile west of U.S. 59 on 1000 Rd. Wednesday, June 24, 2 p.m. Northeast Kansas Pasture Walk, at the KSU Stocker Unit, 4330 Marlatt Ave, Manhattan. Driving northwest of Manhattan on Seth Child Road, turn west onto Marlatt Avenue, travel slightly more than one mile and drive through the big KSU Stocker Unit gates. Follow

West Central Pasture Walk at HB Ranch, located four miles south of Cedar Bluff Reservoir (Trego County) on Highway 147.

Tuesday, July 7, 9 a.m. South Central KS Pasture Walk, Marion, at David Rziha's. Participants will meet on the south side of the Tampa Baseball Field. Tampa. Wednesday, July 8, 9 a.m. North Central Kansas Pasture Walk, Beloit at Calvin Adams'. From Barnard, drive 1.8 miles east on Highway 284, turn left onto N. 270th (road name will change at county line to 360th), drive 1.7 miles north to Calvin's place at 283 360th Rd., Beloit. Note: Highway 18 west of I-35 is closed because a bridge is out.

For more information on upcoming pasture walks and other workshops sponsored by Amazing Grazing, call Mary Howell at 785-562-8726 or visit Amazing Grazing at AmazingGrazingKansas.com.

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# Prepare now for Sericea lespedeza control

By David G. Hallauer, **Meadowlark Extension** District Agent, Crops & Soils/Horticulture

As far as noxious weeds go, Sericea lespedeza provides one of the more daunting control challenges. Noxious is an apt description, since the large seed bank and vigorous growth habit of Sericea means it's a challenge to control on the front end, and then must be repeated every two to four years just to keep it at bay! It's a huge concern for grass growers, and one that deserves some attention from a control standpoint.

Non-chemical control options are available. Biological control options are nonexistent. You can try grazing goats or sheep with some success. Use four to five

goats per acre of sericea, grazing heavily enough to eliminate seed production. Frequent mowing will damage sericea, as well as desirable plants, so use with caution. If used, do so in mid-to late-July, understanding that seed production will likely not be eliminated. Mowing might be an option in collaboration with chemical control methods, so long as you wait about four weeks after mowing before

applying herbicides.

Herbicides can do a real-

ly good job if applied correctly. Apply products like Remedy Ultra (triclopyr) and PastureGard HL in June and into early July when the sericea plants are vegetative. Products containing metsulfuron, such as Escort XP, Cimarron Plus, and Chaparral are generally more effective in the late summer when sericea lespedeza is actively blooming. Be sure and follow label recommendations and directions for all products. If spot treating, mix 0.5 fl oz. PastureGard HL per gallon of water, use a 1 percent solution of Remedy Ultra in water, or 0.3 grams Escort XP per gallon of water. Repeat treatments will needed every two to four years.

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# **Auction Sales Scheduled**

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

June 18 - Farm, livestock equipment, truck, furniture, tack, collectibles at Osage City for Kathie and Merlin Smith. Auctioneers: Wischropp Auctions.

June 20 - Plumbing & heating equipment, sheet metal brakes & equipment, power pipe threaders, complete line of tools at Manhattan for Powell Brothers. Auctioneers: Reynolds Auction Serv-

June 20 - Collector vehicles, tractor, Studebaker items, shop tools, firearms, collectibles. furniture. household and misc. at Lawrence for Elmer Lindell Estate. Autioneers: Elston.

June 20 - Real estate, farm equipment, household and furniture at Silver Lake for Reamer estate. Auctioneers: Gannon Auc-

June 20 - Furniture, antiques, primitives, collectibles at Portis for Bud and Janice Minger. Auctioneers: Wolters Auction.

June 20 - Farm machinery, collectibles, antiques, glass, household at Overbrook for Moore Family. Auctioneers: Wischropp Auction.

June 20 - Horse and farm equipment and household at Paxico for Jim Thompson. Auctioneers: Murray Auctions.

June 20 - Machinery, guns, vehicles and shop equipment at Abilene for Floyd Edmunds. Auctioneers: Shivers Auctions.

June 20 - Surplus auction furniture, cabinets, mower, appliances at Onaga for Community Hospital District #1. Auctioneers: Cline Realty and Auctions.

June 20 - Real estate, vehicle, antiques and collectibles, furniture. household, tools and yard items at Cottonwood Falls for Mary A. Talkington. Auctioneers: Griffin Real Estate and Auction.

June 20 - Automotive, furniture, collectibles, household at Topeka. Auctioneers: Wayne Hunter Auctions.

June 21 - Antiques, household and misc., collectibles and toys, toy tractor collection at Beatrice, Neb. for Patricia Masek, Lynn Morris Estate and Toby Vanschoiack. Auctioneers: Dennis Henrichs, Rick Jurgens, and Gale "Slim" Hardin.

June 22 - Guns, toys, household, shop and yard at Newton for Jack Shreiber. Auctioneers: Auction Specialists.

June 24 - Machinery, antiques, furniture, glassware, tools and equipment at El Dorado for David Wilson. Auctioneers: Sundgren Realty.

Jube 25 - Land Auction at Olsburg. Auctioneers: Farmers National Compa-

June 26 and 27 - Tools, misc. household, patio furniture, appliances, vehicles, furniture, antique and other clocks, antiques and collectibles, etc. at Smith Center for Vaughn and Diana Peterson. Auctioneers: Wolters Auction.

June 27 - Excavating equipment, collector tractors and equipment, shop equipment and misc. at Lawrence for Heine Grading. Auctioneers: Elston Auctions.

June 27 - Consignment Auc-

tion: Equipment and farm machinery at Tonganoxie. Auctioneers: Moore Auction Service.

June 27 - Pickup, mower, tools, antiques and collectibles, furniture, appliances, guns and misc. at Onaga for Grace Springer. Auctioneers: Cline Realty and Auction.

June 27 - Household, collectibles, riding lawn mowers, generators, automotive and tools at Marysville for Jerry and Bette Coleman. Auctioneers: Tim Olmsted, Rob and Tom Olmsted and Jeff Sandstrom.

June 27 - Vehicles, guns, model trains and airplanes, antiques & collectibles, musical items, tools and misc. at Cottonwood Falls for Jeanette Palermo and the late Kain Palermo Estate. Auctioneers: Griffin Real Estate and Auctions.

June 27 - Tools, household and misc., mechanic tools. machinery at Wamego for Mary and late Dee Young. Auctioneers: Murray Auctions.

June 28 - Outdoor items, tools, furniture, household and collectibles at Washington for Judy Pfeister. Auctioneers: Bott RE and Auction.

June 30 - Land Auction at Kincaid. Auctioneers: United Country Real Estate - Great Plains Auc-

July 1 - Land for Sale at White City for Junior Hultgren Estate. Auctioneers: Hallgren Auctions.

July 6 - Land Auction at Hill City for Richard and Charlotte Roper. Auctioneers: Farmland Auction and Realty.

July 9 - Ellsworth County land auction, 312 acres crop and pasture at Marquette for Peterson Family. Auctioneers: Omli and Associates

July 11 - Real estate, vehicles, boat and motorcycle, kite buggies and chutes, antiques and collectibles. tools, mower, outdoor equipment, furniture, household at Herington for the late Brad Williford. Auctioneers: Griffin Real Estate and Auction. July 18 - Household, an-

tiques, furniture at Abilene for Floyd Edmunds.

Auctioneers: Ron Shivers. July 25 - Real estate, trailers, tools, greenhouse equipment at Wamego for Mark Pope. Auctioneers: Murray Auctions.

trial equipment consignment auction at Beattie. Auctioneers: Rottinghaus Equipment Auctions. September 7 — 20th annual

August 5 - Farm and indus-

Labor Day auction at Lyndon. Auctioneers: Harley Gerdes Auctions.

**PERSONAL** 

**PROPERTY** 

Apartment Size Refrigerators.

SATURDAY, JUNE 20 — 10:00 AM

2323 North Jackson - JUNCTION CITY, KS

FURNITURE & APPLIANCES: Sofa, Love Seat, & Matching

Overstuffed Chair, 2-Love Seats & Matching Sofa, Duncan Phyfe

Exp Dining Table w/Captain's Chair & 5-Side Chairs, Morganton

Buffet, Kitchen Table, Oak Roll Top Desk, Antique (Dental Instrument) Roll Top Desk, White Cloud Wine Cabinet, Step End Ta-

bles w/Matching Coffee Table, Bedroom Set (Full Bed & Night

Stand), Double Dresser, 4 Drawer Chest, Lamp Stands, Blanket

Rack, Microwave Stand, Table Lamps, Magnavox VHS Player,

Sharp Microwave, Electric Heater, Maytag Mobil Dishwasher, 2-

COINS (Sell at 10:00 AM), GUNS, GLASSWARE & COL-**LECTIBLES:** Wheat Cents, Buffalo Nickels, Mercury Dimes, Half Dollars (Walking Liberty, Franklin, & Kennedy), Dollars (Mor-

gan, Peace & Eisenhower), Coin Books (Lincoln Cents, Buffalo

Nickel, Morgan Silver Dollar & Peace Silver Dollar), Foreign Coins, Hand Guns, Excellent Condition, (Smith & Wesson

Model 60 .38 Snub Nose w/Holster SN80383, Browning 9MM

Automatic SN73C80495, Colt Diamondback .38 Špecial SND6699), 4-Boxes 12 Ga Shotgun Shells, Misc Ammo (.22, .32, .38, .38 Special &, 44 Magnum), Belt Holster, Tea Pot Col-

lection, Misc Tea Cups & Saucers, Glass Decanters, Gibson "Royal Gold China Setting for 10, National Headquarters USA China Setting For 8, Wine Stems, Glass Tumblers, Glass Bowls,

Stoneware Tureens, Serving Bowls, Punch Bowl w/Cups, Quart Milk Bottle, Royals Mugs, #10 Red Wing Crock, #10 Diamond Crock, Rogers Sterling Silverware (12 Place Setting), Silver

Plate Serving Sets, Several Wrist Watches (Quartz & Jeweled),

Lineman's Rotary Telephone Hand Set, Stromberg-Carlson Oak

Wall Phone, Candlestick Phone w/Ear Piece, Erickson Phone

w/Hand Set, Zenith Tube Type Table Radio, Jahresvhren-Fabrik Anniversary Clock (Circa 1930), Glass Mantle Clock, Zippo Lighters, Globe & Stand, Shrine Mini Trunk, Baskets, Camera

TOOLS, & MISCELLANEOUS: Murray "Wide Body GT" Garden Tractor w/ 46" Deck, Lawn Chief 5HP Front Tine Tiller, Ryobi Gas String Trimmer, Weed Eater Leaf Blower, Lawn Seed-

er/Spreader, Generac 6HP Power Washer, Central Machine 10"

Table Saw, Skil 7 1/4" Circ Saw, 1/4HP Bench Elect Grinder on

Pedestal, Bushwacker 18" Elect Hedge Trimmer, Milwaukee

Electric Polisher, Ext Cords, Tool Box, Hand Tools, Carpenter

Tool Box, Work Bench, Garden Tools, Wheel Barrow, 2-Rain

Train Sprinklers, Fuel Cans, Games, Small Kitchen Appliances,

Kitchen Knife Block & Knives, Pedestal Circ Fan, Elegance Nov-

elle Golf Clubs, Metal Coke Cooler, Tackle Box, Fishing Tackle,

Roadmaster 10 Speed Bicycle, Christmas Decorations, THIS

WILL BE A VERY LARGE SALE WITH MANY, MANY MORE

Lunch Available. Terms Cash, Check or Credit Card NRFA

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ITEMS TO NUMEROUS TO LIST.

JAY E. BROWN, 785-223-7555

Broker & Auctioneer GREG HALLGREN, 785-499-5376

785-762-2266 FAX: 785-762-8910

# New bill would allow farmers student loan forgiveness

The National Young Farmers Coalition introduced a new bill last week encouraging young adults to take up farming as a career by reducing the burden of their federally backed college loans. Currently, the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program includes debt relief for professions in government service, teaching and nursing. The National Young Farmers Coalition argues that farming is also a public service and is vital to our economy. Currently the program allows borrowers to qualify

for forgiveness on their remaining balance after they have made 120 qualifying payments while employed full-time by certain public service employers. In order year from farm products.

to ensure those who do not farm as a career are not included, the legislation would only apply to farmers earning at least \$35,000 per

## **Rottinghaus Consignment Auction** WANTED:

FARM & INDUSTRIAL CONSIGNMENTS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2015 • 10 AM Jct. Hwy 36 & 99, Beattie, Kansas

> Deadline for advertising is: Monday, July 13, 2015

Contact: Terry at 785-353-2525 • Cell: 785-799-5141

# LAND AUCTION

40± Acres • Pottawatamie County, Kansas

### Thursday, June 25, at 6:00 PM CST at the American Legion . Olsburg, Kansas

- Located on the north side of Swede Road a half mile west of
- the northwest corner of Olsburg, Kansas

All 40 acres are in brome grass

For Property Details, Contact: Farmers National

**Chris Sankey, Agent Council Grove, Kansas** 

Company (620) 767-7526 or (620) 343-0456 Auctioneer: Jason Flory www.FarmersNational.com/ChrisSankey

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# LIQUIDATION AUCTION

SATURDAY, JUNE 27 — 10:00 AM 1073 EAST 450 RD, — LAWRENCE, KS

From Lawrence take HWY 59 South 1 mile turn West on Dg. 458 12 miles turn Right on N 851 Diagonal Rd. ½ Mile to Auction! Watch For Signs!!

After Many Years in the Excavating Business Heine Grading has decided to Sell the Following!!

### **EXCAVATING EQUIPMENT:**

1988 Caterpillar D6H Series II Dozer w/3 shank ripper, 50% UC. ser#4RC1848. enclosed cab, rops; 1986 Caterpillar D6H Dozer w/3 shank ripper. ser#4RC580, enclosed cab, rops; Caterpillar 621B Belly Earth Scraper ser#45P1662 rops/ canopy, w/ cushion hitch; Caterpillar 613 Chain-Driven Elevating Earth Scraper. rops/canopy; Caterpillar No. 12E Motor Grader ser#99E11461: 1965/66 Allis-Chalmers 260 Belly-Pan Scraper w/19K engine, Kontork Differential; Allis-Chalmers 260 Belly-Pan Scraper(parts) both 260's have consecutive serial #'s; 1990 Mack CH613 Semi-Truck, 10 spd., 11R-24.5 tires, tandem axle, flat-top sleeper; 1977 Hyster Lowboy Trailer 8 ft. x 25 ft., 35 ton, tandem axle, wooden floor

#### **COLLECTOR TRACTORS/ EQUIPMENT**

John Deere 830 diesel Industrial tractor; Allis-Chalmers WC tractor nf; IH F-12 tractor; Caterpillar 35 crawler(parts or restoration); Rogers Iron Works Rock Crusher 2-27-1935 ser#6558: Blacksmith Lancaster Geared Blower & Table: 100 lb.+ Anvil on block stand; 4wheel Chicago Pneumatic CP Compressor; Large Aurora Belt-Driven w/several spline bits:

#### **EQUIPMENT/SHOP EQUIPMENT & MISC.**

1956 Chevrolet 4400 Fuel Truck (550 gallon); 1965 Chevrolet C50 single axle Truck w/Haul-Mor 14 ft. grainbed; pull-type 8 ft. 3 bladed finish mower; Rome TAW 20-28 offset 12 ft. disk; Lincoln Type SA-200 2-wheel trailer welder; 2-wheel trailer 6 cylinder Continental trash-pump; Caterpillar 25 & 29 cable control units: 2-wheel trailer Braden cablewinch: Allis-Chalmers 19 & 25k

engines(parts); several Allis-Chalmers heads/cranks/parts; roll-cage; Chevrolet 350 diesel engine; Gardener Denver 25 hp. horizontal Air-Compressor: 100 gallon L-Shape fuel tank; Tuthill 12V fuel-pump; side tool boxes; 1 & 34 drive socket sets; torque wrench; Honda GC160 w/Pacer pump trashpumps; acetylene/oxygen torch set; Vibromax tamper; horizontal band-saw: 10 in. bench grinder; large tap-die set; Surveyor DM4; laser-level; Craftsman tools; pipe wrenches; chisels: hammers: numerous power/hand tools; Caterpillar bolts/pins/parts; large pigeon hole bolt bin; misc. plastic pipe; drainage end caps/etc.: salvage items; numerous items too many to mention!

Auction Note: Most items in working condition but some will sell as is! Concessions: All Proceeds to Kahlyn Heine 4-H Foundation Scholarship. Large Bldg. To Sell From In Case of Inclement Weather! Loader Day of Auction Only!

#### **SELLERS: HEINE GRADING RETA & LATE OTIS** (LUD) HEINE & ROD HEINE

Please visit us online at www.KansasAuctions.net/elston for pictures!

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# REAL ESTATE AUCTION



### WEDNESDAY, JULY 1 — 6:30 PM 2055 HWY. 4 · WHITE CITY, KS

TRACT 1: Large 2 story house with 4 bedrooms and 2 baths on approximately 9 acres. Full unfinished basement with fireplace and hot water heat. House needs some updates, but has lots of possibilities. Oversized 2 car attached garage. 1994 sq. ft. large shop buildings and numerous other outbuildings. Easy access with highway frontage and just 1/2 mile east of White City and 20 miles south of Junc-

TRACT 2: 50 acre tract, more or less, in the NW1/4 Section 36, Township 14, Range 6, Morris County Kansas. Approx. 44 acres of farmland with the balance waterways and a small pasture. This tract is adjacent to Tract 1 and sells subject to tenant's rights.

> **FOR INFORMATION** CONTACT **GREG HALLGREN BROKER & AUCTIONEER** AT 785-499-2897.

Terms: Cash or Good Check.

Not Responsible for Acci-

dents. Statements made day

of auction take precedence

over written materials.

**ALL THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES** ARE LOCATED IN WHITE CITY

TRACT 3: 213 S. Oak- 2 bedroom house with detached garage. TRACT 4: 608 Stockholm- 2 bedroom house.

TRACT 5: 213 S. 5th- 2 bedroom house on 100x150

TRACT 6: 402 S. 3rd- duplex with two 1 bedroom

TRACT 7: 305 W. Kansas- 1 bedroom house. TRACT 8: 200 block of S. Elm- 75x140 vacant lot. TERMS & CONDITION: 10% earnest money on each tract due the day of the auction. Balance due wher merchantable title and warranty deed are delivered Closing on or before August 4, 2015. Properties sell in AS-IS condition. All Buyers inspection are to be done prior to the auction. Acreage amounts are based on county records and are deemed reliable, but are not guaranteed. Brokerage and Auctioneers

JUNIOR HULTGREN ESTATE

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Grass & Grain, June 16, 2015



ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

# Agricultural Ignorance

The editor of the *Delmar*va Farmer made the observation that Americans as a whole have reached the Age of Agricultural Ignorance. This stage in our civilization is a direct result of the lack of "kids growing up on the farm."

There are many reasons for them leaving, one of the greatest being that farming requires manual labor. As

our country has progressed, each generation was drawn to professions that demanded less and less physical exertion. A perfect example is the importation of foreign labor to do the grunt work. Grandparents and parents crossed the border to work in the fields. They, themselves were close to the land and understood farming. But when they raised

their children, they deliberately discouraged them from working in agricul-

In the last five generations in the U.S., we have whittled down the percent of the population engaged in production agriculture from 25% in 1933 to less than 2% today.

So what? Using modern agriculture practices, the reality is, 2% is enough to feed everyone else. It's an amazing accomplishment that is now taken for granted. However, there is an accompanying negative progression that has contributed to the Age of Agricultural Ignorance. It is the expanding ignorance of science. Today in the U.S., 50% of all post-graduate degrees in science-based curriculums are earned by students who are foreign born. "Science based" include subjects like math, chemistry, engineering, medicine, physics and agriculture. Political science and economics are not sciences.

What those of us in agriculture find hard to believe is, according to popular culture, we are not doing a good job. The community of denigrators accuse farmers of misuse of animals and land and our environment. They are innocently supported by an ignorant media (journalism is not a science) who are incapable of evaluating information like statistical significance, withholding times, FDA requirements and the writing on the back of a bottle.

I grant that they get a disproportionate amount of the front-page scares and the denigrators stir up contributions to their antifarming causes and the gutless media-sensitive politicians (lawyery is not a science) and pop stars are no help, but...

Dwarfing their squealing, the landslide of food production roars down through the planting, harvest, transportation, preparation and consumption of what we choose to eat. The food chain never stops. It is feeding 320 million people in the U.S. daily, plus furnishing \$45 billion worth of food exports (2013).

One might conclude that America's horn of plenty

will survive as long as foreign-born students help us continue to technically and biologically streamline farming. And as long as foreign-born laborers who are willing to pick up a shovel or drive a tractor keep immigrating, that we will not go hungry. A sad conclu-

Then again, there might be a renaissance of 21st Century Agricultural Awareness, where farmers and ranchers will be recognized for their contribution and treated like royalty! In the league of astronauts, Heisman Trophy winners, or even Oscar winners!

Hey, you never know. Hunger is a powerful influ-

# U.S. agricultural equipment exports drop in first quarter of year

agricultural equipment for first quarter 2015 dropped 16.7-percent compared to first quarter 2014, for a total \$1.82 billion shipped to global markets.

All world regions recorded declines except Central America, and Europe experienced the deepest drop, according to the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM), citing U.S. Department of Commerce data it uses in global markets reports for members.

### **Exports by World Region**

First quarter 2015 U.S. agricultural equipment exports by major world regions compared to first quarter 2014:

Canada dropped 16.7 percent, for a total \$582 mil-

Europe declined 34.7

Central America gained 6.4 percent, for a total \$273.3

South America dropped 21.8 percent, for a total \$187.8 million

Asia fell 22.2 percent, for a total \$178 million

Australia/Oceania fell 16.2 percent for a total \$120.7 million

Africa decreased 6.3 percent, for a total \$67 million AEM Market Analysis Overview

AEM's Benjamin Duyck, director of market intelligence, provides some in-

This quarter decline of 16.7 percent was quite steep, though less harsh than the 29 percent decline last quarter or the 19.3 percent decline in Q1 of 2014.

Exports of U.S.-made percent, for a total \$410.5 As global market drivers had not changed much from last year, declines in the exports of farm equipment was expected. Farm incomes are still forecasted to decrease in 2015, and on a more macro-economic level the strong dollar is still hampering U.S. global competitiveness.

> A recent report by the global Agrievolution Alliance indicated that while the global business climate is expected to improve in the next six months, the current situation still indicated a clear decline in global turnover in Q1 2015, though there are some regional differences. Overall, Asian markets have a more dynamic development with a positive climate in China, India and Turkey. Other established markets such as

the USA, Europe and Japan 57.4 percent are still negative.

While exports have decreased, the U.S. domestic market is moving in different directions. The segment of small equipment used for landscaping services, hobby farmers and livestock continues to grow, while sales of larger tractors and combines, used in production ag, continue to decline.

#### **Exports by Top Ten Countries**

The top countries buying the most U.S.-made agricultural machinery during first quarter 2015 (by dollar volume) were:

Canada - \$582 million, down 16.7 percent

Mexico - \$242.1 million, up 7.5 percent Australia - \$107.7 mil-

lion, down 17.2 percent China - \$75.5 million, up

Germany - \$66.4 million, down 7.6 percent

Brazil - \$61.0 million, down 35.8 percent

Belgium - \$47.7 million, down 36.1 percent France - \$46.2 million,

down 11.3 percent

South Africa - \$42.6 million, down 14.2 percent

United Kingdom - \$42.3 million, down 14.5 percent Economic Resources Avail-

AEM's Agricultural **Equipment Global Markets** Export report and select other reports are available to the public through the AEM store (www.safety materials.org).

AEM members may access the global markets export report and the Agrievolution report on the AEM website (www.aem.org) in

Market Intelligence section.

Custom detailing exports by ten-digit HS code to various countries worldwide, as well as an overview of export market opportunities by product, are available to members on request. For more information, contact AEM's Benjamin Duyck, director of market intelligence (bduyck@aem.org).

