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Symphony attendees were treated to a demonstration of cowboys rounding up cattle on horseback accompanied by western-themed music.

Photos by Rachel Shivers

Symphony serenades thousands in Flint Hills

By Lucas Shivers

Nearly 7,000 participants from around the world celebrated grasslands at the Symphony in the Flint Hills at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve on June 13.

The Tenth Anniversary Signature Event in Chase County near Cottonwood Falls featured presentations from global scientists, performance by Kansas City Symphony and Lyle Lovett, and after-party festivities.

"The Flint Hills are such a special place," said legendary musician Lyle Lovett. "I've enjoyed learning about the Flint Hills. This place means so much to the world, and it has inspired so many."

After a decade of concerts across the region, the tenth-anniversary Symphony returned to the site of the first event with added features and programs.

As the sun set on the horizon and the symphony played triumphant tunes of western era themes from *Sil-*



The Kansas City Symphony played for the tenth anniversary of the Symphony in the Flint Hills, which returned to its original location at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve.

verado and *The Cowboys Overture*, cowboys on horseback rounded up cattle for the audience to view a live

demonstration set to music. The event drew thousands from Kansas City, Wichita and other areas to promote

access to the wonders of rural Kansas. The event seeks to give the general public an understanding on

the ecological and cultural significance of the Flint Hills. It also provides an economic boost to rural Kansas prairie communities.

"Our mission is simply to bring heightened awareness to the tallgrass prairie," said Kelly Tastove, Symphony development officer.

Mike Stout, Symphony board member from Wichita for three years, said the crowds have increased due to the popularity of the event with more connected activities like art exhibits, auctions, wagon rides, star gazing, food vendors and dancing.

"The proof of our success is the return of folks who make it a priority to attend and support each summer," Stout said. "People come back to it year after year."

A 13-member board of directors, several staff leaders and more than 700 volunteers help to conduct the annual signature event on the Kansas plains, as well as year-round prairie education

activities.

"We always hope to facilitate an appreciation of the Flint Hills and build any kind of political and economic capital to continue to preserve the land," he said. "We hope to build a bunch of good will, because it's a wonderful place for Kansas to keep."

Global Grasslands

For the 2015 event, the Symphony collaborated with The Nature Conservancy to bring in researchers, scientists and conservations from around the world to share presentations of grassland management, projects and success stories before the evening concert.

The pre-concert lectures on "Grasslands around the World" featuring workshops from Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Mongolia, Australia and more. The musical selections from the show also reflected these regions.

In one of the sessions,

Continued on page 3

Gov. Brownback declares June as Kansas Dairy Month

Kansas is becoming known around the country as the dairy frontier. The industry is continuing to expe-

rience exponential growth, rising by 6.1 percent in 2014, making Kansas one of the fastest-growing dairy states in the United States. Showing appreciation for the hard-working dairymen and women who toil 365 days a year to provide wholesome and nutritious dairy products, Gov. Sam Brownback has declared June as Kansas Dairy Month.

"We are very proud of the accomplishments Kansas dairymen have made to make our state one of the fastest growing dairy states," Brownback said. "Last year, Kansas produced over 3.1 billion pounds of milk, which equates to nearly 350 million gallons of milk. Kansas dairymen are doing their part to supply the growing demand for dairy products around the world."

Kansas is home to over 325 dairy farms and 143,000 dairy cows. With spacious

land areas, an adequate climate and readily available feed to dairymen, it is highly suited to the dairy industry. In 2014, the value of milk produced in Kansas was \$746 million. Kansas dairy farmers help support and stimulate their individual communities and the state's economy.

During the proclamation signing, Brownback also recognized the important work of the National Dairy Council which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. The National Dairy Council has provided important community and school programs and partnerships with local food banks, and has been a dedicated supporter of nutrition research and education.

A vision of the Kansas Department of Agriculture is to advocate for and promote the agriculture industry, the state's largest industry, em-

ployer and economic contributor. Proclaiming the month of June as Kansas Dairy Month helps promote and advocate for an impor-

tant sector in Kansas agriculture.

Follow the Kansas Department of Agriculture on Facebook and Twitter to

learn more about Kansas Dairies and celebrate the industry all through the month of June.



Members of the Kansas dairy industry joined with Gov. Sam Brownback for the signing of the proclamation declaring June Dairy Month in Kansas. Pictured from left include Ron Grusenmeyer, Midwest Dairy Association, Lynne Hinrichsen, KDA agribusiness development specialist, Stephanie Eckroat, Kansas Dairy Association, George Blush, KDA dairy program manager, Gov. Sam Brownback, Byron Lehman – dairyman, Newton, Marley Sugar, Midwest Dairy Association, Jackie Klippenstein, Dairy Farmers of America, and Billy Brown, KDA agribusiness development coordinator.



By John Schlageck,
Kansas Farm Bureau

It seems like only yesterday when I raced my buddies down the red-carpeted ramp of the Pix Theater in Hoxie trying to nail down those good seats. You know the ones I'm talking about – those in the front row where tennis shoes could be heard latching into congealed soda from the earlier matinee.

Back in those days, “the guys and me” could watch *Davey Crockett*, *Old Yeller* or *It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World* for only a quarter and a seal from a milk carton from Ada's, our hometown dairy.

Outside as we waited in line for our tickets, you could smell the popcorn and glimpse the soda machine as it dropped a cup from its innards and spewed forth an overly sweet combination of syrup, carbonated water and ice. Sometimes the cup turned sideways and the liquid missed and sprayed the hand of the kid expecting a tasty treat.

The point of all this is they don't make movie theaters like they used to. The multi-screened mazes and cinema complexes that thrive today are designed for volume and efficiency. Forget cozy, close and jam-packed. This only happens

occasionally when a blockbuster is released and usually only lasts the first day.

And sneaking into one of these new theaters in our high-security world is also a thing of the past, not that I ever tried such a prank as a youngster.

I have nothing against these modern, chain theaters of today. I guess it is just good business in this age of DVDs, palm-entertainment systems and satellite television. They have to compete and who doesn't like to watch some of the latest Hollywood offerings on the giant screen?

Still, whenever I travel in rural communities across Kansas, I keep an eye out for the little movie houses that may have survived in small towns. I can name a few on one hand.

Owners of such small operations lament the price to be paid for keeping up with

new technology, the fewer number of movie-goers in their shrinking communities, the long wait for new releases like *Harry Potter* or parts for their old, tired projectors.

Several have managed to hang on, and their battered neon lights still attract the summertime moth brigade and sweaty-handed kids on first dates.

Most of these operators have outside jobs. They cannot make it by running a theater in a rural community alone.

One owner I ran across several years ago in south-central Kansas told me he runs a small printing operation and dons the robes of a municipal judge.

“I keep the theater open,” he said, “to keep the kids out of my courtroom.”

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.

In trans fat decision, FDA adds time for high oleic soybean oil to meet market needs

Following a recent final ruling from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration that rescinds the generally regarded as safe (GRAS) designation for partially hydrogenated oils (PHOs), the American Soybean Association (ASA) noted the industry's ongoing progress at removing trans fats from American diets, and thanked FDA for the three-year time period – until June of 2018 – for the food industry to replace most uses of PHOs. ASA believes this compliance period will allow the U.S. soybean industry to ramp up production of high oleic soybean oil that can safely replace PHOs and highly saturated fats such as palm oil in many food applications.

“ASA absolutely echoes the commitment from both government and the food in-

dustry to better public health through nutrition, which can be seen in the more than 70 percent reduction in trans fat consumption since 2003,” said Wade Cowan, ASA's president and a soybean farmer from Brownfield, Texas.

In its comments on FDA's proposed rule, ASA called on FDA to build in the time needed by the soybean industry to increase production of high oleic soybean varieties, which provide the functionality of PHOs in many baking and frying applications without the addition of trans fats.

“High oleic soybeans represent a key evolution in soybean farmers' ability to meet the needs of our customers,” said Cowan. “But we've emphasized to FDA all along that we need the time to get the high oleic trait integrated into soybean varieties and approved in overseas markets so we can produce what the industry demands.”

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By June of 2018, the food industry must replace the existing use of PHOs in the marketplace, estimated at between 2 and 2.5 billion pounds. The concern, said Cowan, was that without a suitable ramp-up timeframe, the food industry to get the functional characteristics it needs for certain applications would turn to competing oils such as palm oil that are either high in saturated fat or that create a detrimental environmental impact.

“Soybean oil contains no trans fat, is low in saturated fat, is sustainable, and is a broadly available, domestic option for the food industry here in the United States,” he said. “We hope our partners in the food industry will utilize the timeframe FDA has provided, and join us as we move seamlessly to high oleic soybean oil to replace PHOs.”



There are times, as a man, that you must admit defeat and just appreciate the fact that you married a woman much better than you deserved. Sunday was one of those days. As my friend Greg once told me, the secret to a happy marriage is the ability to say, “I am a man, therefore I am wrong and I am sorry.” I think that is the best marriage advice I have ever received.

Sunday we had 4-H meeting and we needed to do chores just a little bit early. Added to that was the fact that a thunderstorm moving in rather quickly. We soon got the chores done except that there was no sign of the ewes. We have never had problems with predators with our sheep but I think that is because we lock them in the lot each night. However, given the condition of our muddy lots, I could not blame them for not wanting to voluntarily give up their freedom.

With the rain moving in and thunder becoming increasingly louder, the decision was made to shut them in after we got home from 4-H. After all, they always come in at night and they most likely would be waiting on us at the gate. Like a lot of theories, that sounded really good at the time, especially as the first big drops of rain began to fall.

Our 4-H meeting went smoothly and finished about the time we thought it would and that would leave plenty of time to corral the sheep (after all, not much time was needed since they would be standing, waiting on us to come home and shut the gate behind them). Little did we know that the chairperson of the banner committee would call for a meeting after the regular club meeting (that chairperson being child number 2). No problem, since the sheep are creatures of habit and would be dutifully waiting on us.

Much to our chagrin there were no sheep standing in the lot when we finally arrived home. Daylight was quickly slipping behind the western horizon, but surely the ewes were not far away. Isaac went to look and I changed clothes and also ventured out. Oh, and it had started to rain. So much for waiting for a drier time. As darkness quickly settled in, it be-

came apparent that the ewes were not close by.

Remembering that I had found them across the creek and in the meadow on top of the hill earlier in the week, I turned my search in that direction. Sure enough, as I emerged from the dark mass of timber between the hill and the creek, I saw a distant blob of white. I called to the ewes and they came thundering to me. However, it became painfully obvious, very quickly that they were not going into the scary dark timber, no matter how badly they wanted to go home or how badly I wanted them too. One person against 50 ewes is not a winning proposition.

Wet, muddy, disgusted and frustrated, I waved the white flag and started back to the house, admitting defeat. Along the way I ran into Isaac, who was just as wet, maybe muddier and a whole lot more frustrated. It was not good, both of us were visualizing an all-you-can-eat buffet for the local predator population. We slogged our way back into the house with short fuses and bad attitudes and told Jennifer about our plight.

She listened to us and quickly pulled her mud boots on, heading to the barn with a determined look on her face. She turned the lights on the barn, got her dog, the best flashlight we had and told me to drive her to the top of the hill. When I asked what she was going to do and what I needed to do, she said, “I am going to drive the ewes in and you are going to be quiet, watch and shut the gate behind them.”

Sure enough, in about fifteen minutes a streak of white rushed past me and through the gate followed by Jennifer and her trusty dog. When I asked what she did that I had not done, she simply said she turned the lights on in the barn to give the ewes something to run to, shined the beam of the flashlight onto the path for them and had taken better help to herd them. She then gave me “the look.” That is when I hung my head, thanked her and acknowledged the truth, “I am male, therefore I was wrong and I am sorry.”

COWPOKES® By Ace Reid



“Wait a minute, if Maw can take time to defrost this meal, then you can take time to eat it!”



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Gladstone 4-H gets up close view of Vos Dairy

By Mary Powell

"I got to milk a cow!" Jackey wrote on the farm visit evaluation, referring to the Chase County Gladstone

4-H club's visit to the Vos Dairy at Cedar Point. Other 4-H members wrote that they were surprised at how much milk a cow produced,

how much a cow ate and others were interested in the milking machine and the size of the bulk milk tank. Lynnae Johnson, the 4-H leader, said everyone had a great experience and was glad that the weather was nice for the spring visit.

The owner of Vos Dairy, Ria Vos, was thrilled to have visitors to her small dairy and enlisted the help of her landlord, Charles "Chuck" Magathan, a friend, Carrie McElfresh and Chase County Extension agent Mike Holder to help with the afternoon event. The club members and their parents visited different stations on the farm, set up to explain the different aspects of dairy farming, including the feedstuff station, where samples of the different ingredients were set out to show the visitors what the ingredients look like and how much is needed to feed one cow. Several 4-H members were surprised at the amount it takes to feed just one cow. "It is a LOT," one wrote on their evaluation.

While one group checked out the feed ingredients, other groups were visiting the baby calves, learning to

milk a cow by hand and learning how to properly and safely approach any species of livestock. Milk sampling was also on the agenda as well as learning about the different types of milk products found in the local grocery stores. Magathan commented after the tour that he is amazed at how many people living in rural communities have little or no knowledge of where their food comes from and how it is produced.

Ria was very pleased with the visit and laughed that the number of kids wanting to show dairy animals at the Chase County 4-H fair would probably get much bigger. "Last year I took fifteen animals for the kids to show," she added. That number included 4-H members and non-4-H members who showed in the dairy classes. "It is all Brownie 2's fault!" Ria said, referring to the only Brown Swiss cow in her Holstein

herd. From two girls showing Brownie 2 in the open class at the fair about six years ago, Ria's group of kids has grown and she laughs at the interest in showing dairy cattle that her cows have created. "I don't have enough adult

help to send more animals to the fair but at least my older kids are now old enough to help clean and fit the animals for the young kids showing. They are a big help to me and I wish we could do more," she said.



Ria Vos describes the equipment in the milking parlor to Gladstone 4-H'ers who visited Vos Dairy at Cedar Point.

Photo by Lynnae Johnson



Charles Magathan explains the feedstuff fed to the dairy cows to members of the Gladstone 4-H Club during their visit to Vos Dairy.

Symphony serenades thousands in Flint Hills

Continued from page 1

Mike Harrison, from the Northern Rangeland Trust in Kenya, discussed management of millions of acres of communal African grasslands to build peace and restore community. To help restore grazing and grasslands, the Trust built rapport with local tribes and created grazing committees through board of elders.

"This is a partnership for larger peace and stability in the region, not just conservation," he said. "We're building a generational change of leadership and capacity to run a conservancy with better results for the cattle and people of Africa."

Concert Origins

In 1994, Jane Koger, a Flint Hills rancher, celebrated her birthday by inviting the public to a Symphony on the Prairie. More than 3,000 people congregated for a

"magical union between symphonic music and the prairie landscape."

Ten years after Koger's legendary birthday concert, regional leaders founded the Symphony. The mission seeks to enrich the tallgrass prairie by providing opportunities to experience symphonic music and place-based education in the Flint Hills.

Enduring traditions continue from the first show, like closing the event by singing *Home on the Range*.

"This was my third Symphony, and each time, it's been better and better," said Trish Gau, from Overland Park. "It's like magic to see everything the event pulls together."

Additional Activities

Many additional projects and programs arose from the central Symphony event. Ricki Ellison, a graduate stu-

dent from Wichita State University, took part in the Flint Hills Media Project to capture stories of the event and surrounding area.

"It's a tight-knit community, and we got to write about so many feature stories from Chase County and the surrounding area," Ellison said.

Adding an element of art to the event, several tents exhibited 48 pieces of artwork and photos from 25 photographers competed in a juried showcase featuring the prairie.

"This was an amazing event, and I was glad to be part of it," said Wayne Greer, a photographer from Wichita. "I come up all the time to take photos in the Flint Hills for the dramatic skies, old buildings and inspired landscapes. It's great to see local and international folks coming to Kansas."



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Gluten-free almond cake makes Garla Pierson, Clay Center, weekly recipe winner

MOIST ALMOND CAKE
Garla Pierson, Clay Center

I have two daughters on strict gluten-free diets, and this delicious cake has been a real hit.

- 3/4 cup unsalted butter (coconut oil)
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 cup almond meal/flour
- 1/2 cup coconut flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon sea salt
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 cup coconut or almond milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 teaspoon xanthan gum

Cream together butter and sugar until smooth. Add eggs one at a time and beat until fully blended in. Add milk and vanilla and mix until combined. Combine flours, salt, baking powder. Beat dry ingredients into wet until creamy. Spread in greased 9x13" pan. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes. Serve with fresh fruit and whipped cream. 18 slices.

CORN SALSA

Rose Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma

- 2 cups frozen corn, thawed
- 1/4 cup red pepper chopped
- 2 green onions, sliced
- 1 jalapeno pepper seeded and chopped
- 1 tablespoon fresh cilantro, chopped

- 2 tablespoon lime juice
- 1 tablespoon oil
- 1/2 teaspoons salt
- Corn chips
- Gently stir together first 8 ingredients, cover and refrigerate at least one hour before serving.

Serve with corn chips. Makes 2 1/2 cups.

SOUR CREAM COFFEE CAKE

Tracey Oakley, Junction City

- 2 sticks butter
- 2 cups sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup sour cream
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- Mix above ingredients until smooth and creamy. In lightly greased and floured tube pan spoon 1/2 of batter and 1/2 cinnamon mixture on top. Add the rest of the batter and sprinkle the rest of the cinnamon mixture over top. Bake at 350 for 60-70 minutes.

- Cinnamon/sugar mixture**
- 1/2 to 3/4 cup sugar
 - 2 tablespoons cinnamon
 - 1/2 cup chopped pecans

SWEET ONION CASSEROLE

Kellee George, Lawrence

- 5 sweet onions sliced into thin rings
- 1 cup butter
- 24 round buttery crackers, like Ritz, crushed.
- 1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese
- 2 tablespoons milk.

Saute onions in melted butter in a skillet over medium heat 15 min. or until tender. Spoon half of onions into 1 1/2 qt. baking dish. Sprinkle half of crackers crumbs and half of cheese over onions, repeat layers. Bake uncovered at 325° for 25-30 min. Add milk if crackers have absorbed too much liquid.

Sarah Martin Wins Beef Checkoff's 'Rev It Up' Contest

The votes have been tallied and the winner in the beef checkoff's 'Rev It Up' My ROI Checkoff Challenge is Sarah Martin from Scammon.

For the past eight weeks, the checkoff has encouraged investors to share how they personally benefit from checkoff efforts, for a chance to win a generously donated Yamaha three-passenger Viking EPS 4x4 with specialized accessories valued at \$21,728.07. For the final video submission, finalists were asked: What would you tell other beef checkoff investors (beef/dairy/veal producers and importers) about the most valuable thing the checkoff has brought to your operation?

To earn her a spot in the top eight, Sarah answered the following question during week No. 4 of the contest: "Did you know older millennial parents (ages 30 to 36) purchase ground beef more often than other cuts of beef? With that in mind, the checkoff created a new Ground Beef thawing infographic, which highlights the best way to

thaw frozen ground beef in the microwave in less than ten minutes. How do the busy, convenience-seeking millennials or other consumers you know prefer to eat beef?"

Her response: "As a millennial, I understand why ground beef is the go to choice for a wholesome nutritious meal. There is so much versatility with recipe choices utilizing ground beef. Personally, I love to go to the beefitswhatsfor dinner.com website and Pinterest page for new beef recipes to try. Ground beef is also very convenient as you can brown a large batch at one time and freeze or refrigerate it to be used later or have hamburger patties ready to throw on the grill. Weeknight meals are so much easier to prepare when things can be done ahead and fit into millennials active lifestyles. Some family favorites include meatballs, tacos, enchiladas, hamburgers and spaghetti with meat sauce. As a beef producer, I enjoy having the convenience of all different cuts of beef in the freezer."

Savor The Season Produce Promotion To Highlight Local Growing Season In Kansas

Does the bounty of Kansas-grown produce at the local farmers' market seem overwhelming with its vast array of colors, unusual vegetables and wide assortment of varieties? The fresh asparagus and colorful peppers might be enticing, but how should they be prepared? Without knowledge of selection, storage, and preparation tips, purchasing fresh ingredients can be intimidating. Put aside your fear and look for the *Savor*

the Season recipe and preparation card when shopping at your favorite farmers' market this summer.

From the Land of Kansas has partnered with Kansas Farm Bureau to spotlight the excitement of cooking with fresh Kansas-grown ingredients. *Savor the Season* is a campaign designed to educate and motivate consumers to cook with Kansas specialty crops. The campaign highlights at least one fruit, vegetable or herb in each recipe. Each recipe card also provides tips on the selection, storage, nutrition and kitchen tips for the seasonal crop. A full nutrition panel, composed by the Kansas Value Added Center, housed at Kansas State University, will accompany each recipe from a registered dietician and chef. Kansas' very own Chef Alli has created each individual recipe

"*Savor the Season* is an excellent way to help make Kansas-grown produce and herbs seem more approachable in farmers' markets," Stacy Mayo, From the Land of Kansas director said. "We understand many consumers want to put fresh

fruits and vegetables on their tables. Our *Savor the Season* card removes the consumer's hesitancy to try new ingredients. Featured recipes are also versatile and easy; they are great for entertaining, family meals or on-the-go lunches."

Savor the Season recipe cards are available at your local farmers' market or from specialty crop growers in your area. The recipes are also available at: FromtheLandofKansas.com/SavortheSeason.

Providing support and assistance to help make Kansas businesses more successful, grow rural communities, expand markets for Kansas agricultural products, level the playing field, grow the agricultural workforce, and encourage more farms, ranches and other agriculture businesses to expand in Kansas is a core mission for the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

Take charge of your shopping list and conquer the farmers' market with confidence. Once you've put those new skills of cooking and preparing tasty dishes to use, show off the fruits of your labors. On Instagram, tag @FromtheLandofKS and use #showusyourdish, #cookingks and #savortheseason to share pictures of your creations. Weekly, one winner will be randomly selected each week from @FromtheLandofKS tagged posts. Search #winner-wednesday to see if your dish was selected as the winner of the random drawing.

For more information about the *Savor the Season* promotion, or to learn more about other From the Land of Kansas programs, please visit: FromtheLandofKansas.com/SavortheSeason.

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Pennsylvania Bread Baker Wins National Festival Of Breads Baking Competition

Lisa Keys of Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, is the grand prize winner in the 2015 National Festival of Breads baking competition, sponsored by King Arthur Flour, Red Star Yeast and the Kansas Wheat Commission.

Judges selected Keys' Smokehouse Cranberry Cheese Bread from among eight finalist recipes baked at the public competition on June 13 in Manhattan. The National Festival of Breads is the nation's only amateur bread-baking competition.

Keys' Smokehouse Cranberry Cheese Bread was entered in the competition's "Time-Saving and Simple Breads" category.

Keys said, "Memories of visits with my in-laws in Quechee, Vermont, inspired this bread. My mother in-law always had smoked cheeses from the local farmer and fresh-made maple syrup tapped from trees in town. She was also into healthy foods and introduced me to tofu in delicious breakfast smoothies. This bread honors all of her goodness."

Keys' blog, *Good Grief Cook*, is dedicated to celebrating her son William, who passed away four years ago. For Keys, her time spent cooking is therapeutic

as well as tasty and she said she hopes the recipes and memories shared provide strength and support to others who have lost a loved one.

"What I've learned is that the grief is never going away," she said. "I wanted to celebrate the amazing son that he was and show people a positive way to deal with grief."

Keys is also a "Chopped" champion. She won a Mother's Day episode of the Food Network show that challenged competitors to create tasty dishes using ingredients like chicken noodle soup, neon-colored breakfast cereal and chocolate body paint.

As the 2015 National Festival of Breads champion, Keys received \$2,000 cash, plus a trip to attend a baking class of her choice at the King Arthur Flour Baking Education Center in Norwich, Vermont. In addition, she will receive a supply (120 envelopes) of Red Star Yeast.

Judges for the event were Zoë François, author of *Artisan Bread in Five Minutes a Day*; Dr. Kadri Koppel of Kansas State University's Sensory Analysis Center; Jenny Dewey Rohrich, Prairie Californian blogger; and Steven Young, Hy-Vee



Lisa Keys' Smokehouse Cranberry Cheese Bread took top honors at the National Festival of Breads competition, held June 13 in Manhattan.

Bakery manager in Manhattan.

"It was a difficult decision because all of the breads were incredibly different and all held their own merit," said Rohrich. "Our judging really came down to which bread scored well in all the different categories. The winning bread brought forth the best balance in flavor, but also had great depth of flavor."

"It had incredible workmanship and texture along with ease of preparation. As judges we all agreed, this is a bread we can't wait to make in our own homes."

The recipe is available at <http://nationalfestivalofbreads.com/cheesebread>.

In addition to the competition, the National Festival of Breads featured educational baking demonstrations, children's activities, bread tasting and more. This was the fourth biennial event, and barbecue demonstrations and sampling were added this year. The nearly 1,000 attendees brought non-perishable food items as admission to the National Festival of Breads, which were donated to the Flint Hills Breadbasket, a community food network in Manhattan

to help alleviate hunger and poverty. The King Arthur Bake Truck, part of the Bake for Good program, also handed out treats, collected financial donations and donated all of their breads baked during the festival to the Flint Hills Breadbasket. In total, more than 654 pounds of food was donated to the Flint Hills Breadbasket.

At the evening National Festival of Breads Awards Banquet, the finalists' breads were auctioned off with proceeds split between the Flint Hills Breadbasket and Stop Hunger Now, a partner organization of sponsor Red Star Yeast. Together, Stop Hunger Now and Red Star Yeast have launched the "Baking the World a Better Place" campaign to raise awareness of chronic hunger issues and provide meals around the world. About \$3,500 was raised to benefit the two organizations.

The finalists for each category and special award winners included:

Ethnic: Felice Bogus, Raleigh, North Carolina - Chickpea-Stuffed Aleppo Flatbreads; Mary Hawkes, Prescott, Arizona - Cheddar 'N' Chiles Accordion Bread;

Rolls: Merry Graham, Newhall, California - Curry

and Chia Onion Buns; Amy Meiers, Santa Rosa, California - Rosemary Cardamom Twisters;

Whole Grains: Ronna Farley, Rockville, Maryland - Crunchy-Topped Coconut Almond Bread; Patrice Hurd, Bemidji, Minnesota - Peppered Parmesan Veggie Bread;

Time Saving and Simple: Jane Fry, Elk Falls, Kansas - Chocolate Swirl Loaves; Lisa Keys, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania - Smokehouse Cranberry Cheese Bread;

Youth Category: Ellie Sapat, Falmouth, Maine - Wild Maine Blueberry Banana Nut Bread;

Best Recipe Using Soy Ingredients: Merry Graham, Newhall, California - Kale-Goat Cheese Artisan Olive Bread;

Best Recipe Using C&H® or Domino® Sugar: Mary Shivers, Ada, Oklahoma - Orange Scented Cream Cheese Kolaches;

Best Recipe Using White Whole Wheat Flour: Jennifer Beckman, Falls Church, Virginia - Butter-milk-Scallion Flatbreads.

Additional information about the 2015 National Festival of Breads, including the finalists' recipes and a complete list of sponsors, is available at NationalFestivalofBreads.com.

Take Steps to Avoid the Wedding Waistline

By Martha Murphy Wildcat District Extension Agent Pittsburg EFNEP office

'Tis the season of weddings: bells, bouquets and... obesity?

The average newlywed gains six to eight pounds during the first two years of marriage. Why? Increased responsibilities, stress and financial pressures and reduced time for leisure and exercise can contribute to weight gain. Also, eating with another person may seem to make it "okay" to consume high-calorie foods such as cookies, ice cream and chips. And married life often leads to eating meals and snacks more regularly, either at home or at restaurants.

Whether you're a newlywed or celebrating your silver jubilee, how can you prevent — or change — weight gain associated with

eating with your spouse?

Avoiding "Heavier Ever After"

- Do it together. Ask your spouse join you to eat more healthfully. Offer each other support and encouragement. Make it fun! For example, take a cooking class for couples. Or shop for tasty low-cal foods.

- Do it separately. You don't have to eat the same foods that your partner does. Try to cook together; however prepare separate foods when needed. For instance, you could both have chicken, one grilled and the other fried. Fixing spaghetti, prepare some sauce with meat and some without, then you can each choose how many calories you add to your pasta.

- Keep a well-stocked pantry and fridge. Having no food — or not the right kinds and amounts — in the

house can lead to eating too many calories in a restaurant or from the drive-through. Grocery shop with a list and make trips to the grocery store regularly. It will help reduce your food budget, too.

- Plan meals. Focus on eating whole grains, seasonal fruits and vegetables, low fat calcium-rich foods, and lean protein-rich foods.

- Watch portion

sizes. Men usually require more calories than women. So servings shouldn't necessarily be equal in size. I know, women, it just isn't fair... but it's a fact!

- Make physical activity part of your life together. Take a long walk after dinner each evening or learn a new sport as a couple.

For additional information, contact the Wildcat Extension District, Crawford County, 620-724-8233,

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fice, Expanded Food and Nutrition Education (EFNEP), 620-232-1930.

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University's quarter-scale tractor team places second at international competition

The Kansas State University quarter-scale tractor A team placed second overall at the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers' annual International Quarter-Scale Tractor Student Design Competition. This is the 17th time in the last 18 years that one of the university's teams has won or placed in the top three at the event.

The competition was May 28-31 in Peoria, Illinois.

This year's A team — juniors and seniors — in placing second out of 26 entries, scored first in the Sportsmanship Award, first in the Campbell Scientific Award, and second in performance events including three pulling and one durability contest. The team will be recognized at the society's annual meeting in July in New Orleans.

The university's quarter-scale tractor X team — freshmen and sophomores — placed first in pulling in the performance events.

The International Quar-



Kansas State University's quarter-scale A team brought home a second place overall finish from the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers' annual International Quarter-Scale Tractor Student Design Competition.

ter-Scale Tractor Student Design Competition is unique among student engineering design contests in that it provides a realistic 360-degree workplace experience. Teams of students are given a 31-horsepower Briggs & Stratton engine and a set of Titan tires. Design of the tractor is up to



Freshmen and sophomores made up the X team, which placed first in pulling in the performance events.

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each team.

A panel of industry experts judges each design for innovation, manufacturability, serviceability, maneuverability, safety, sound level and ergonomics. Teams submit a written design report in advance of the competition, and on site they must sell their design in a formal presentation to the panel, which plays the role of a corporate management team. Finally, machines are put to the test in two performance events — three tractor pulls and a durability course.

Team advisers are Pat Murphy, professor, agriculture and natural resources; Dan Flippo, assistant professor, and Edwin Brokesh, instructor, both biological and agricultural engineering; John Kramer, emeritus assistant professor, K-State Research and Extension; Lou Ann Claassen, administrative specialist, and Jon Zeller, research technician, both biological and agricultural engineering; and Jim Schmidt, Manhattan, biological and agricultural engineering alumnus and department advisory board member.

The following students are members of Kansas State University's quarter-scale tractor teams. Leadership positions are also noted.

Tyler Montgomery, biological systems engineering, Alma, A team secretary; Austin Schmitz, biological systems engineering, Axtell, A team sponsorship co-chair; Kole Urban, biological systems engineering, X team, and Zach Stejskal, biological systems engineering, A team, both from

Bison; Kasey Minihan, agricultural technology management, Blaine, X team; Gabe Bergmann, agricultural technology management, Concordia, X team shop foreman; Ryan Strasser, Garden City, biological systems engineering, A Team equipment manager; Jordan Reisinger, Havensville, biological systems engineering, A team vice president; Megan Workman, biological systems engineering, Lawrence, X team; Lars Peterson, Lindsborg, biological systems engineering, A team; Wade Stroda, agricultural technology management, X team, and E.J. Swihart, agricultural technology management, X team co-captain, both from Manhattan; Kyler Macy, biological systems engineering, Minneapolis, A team; Kristen Fischer, Nashville, mechanical engineering, A team sponsorship co-chair; Jacob Schwindt, mechanical engineering, Olpe, A team; Eli Sheppard, agricultural technology management, Olsburg, A team; Joshua Zeller, agricultural technology management, A team equipment manager, and Becky Zeller, elementary education, A team, both from Overbrook; Jonathan Pasowicz, biological systems engineering, Overland Park, A team engineering student council representative; Tanner Parker, agricultural technology management, X team, and Justin Schmutz, agricultural technology management, X team co-captain, both from Salina; Tyler Ahring, agricultural technology management, St. George, X team; Aaron Spare, biological systems

Continued on page 7

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Colorado poet claims championship

It was a clean sweep for Colorado cowboy poet Floyd Beard, who claimed the top prize in both the humorous and serious poem categories of the Kansas Cowboy Poetry Contest on June 12.

"Congratulations to Floyd, who did an outstanding job," said poetry contest chair Ron Wilson. Complete results in the two poetry categories are as follows: Serious - 1st, Floyd Beard, Punkin Center, Colorado; 2nd, Jerry Jones, Salina; and 3rd, Don Wagner, Bennington. Humorous - 1st, Floyd Beard, Punkin Center, Colorado; 2nd, Don Wagner, Bennington; and 3rd, Don Welborn, Meriden.

Only those who finished in the top tier at one of three regional qualifying contests could compete at the state finals, held in Volland. Others who qualified for the state finals included Eric Borden, Drexel, Missouri;



Floyd Beard, Colorado, captured first place in both the humorous and serious poem categories of the Kansas Cowboy Poetry Contest.

Betty Burlingham, Manhattan; John Cannon, Fredonia; Kathryn Gardner, Topeka; Robert Lakey, Wichita;

Glenn Lathrop, Wichita; and Harry Whitney, Manhattan. "Thanks again to the Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation, our major sponsor; the Symphony in the Flint Hills; the Kansas Chapter of the Western Music Association; Drivers National Hall of Fame, Putnam Quarter Horses; and Vanderbilts, Sheplers, Roberts Cowboy Outfitters and R Bar B Saddle Tack and Trailer who are donating prizes or discounts for the winners," Wilson said.

"We appreciate our excellent celebrity judges: Chief Justice Lawton Nuss of the Kansas Supreme Court, Linda Highland filling in for Representative Ron Highland of Wamego, Marie Martin from the Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation, and the Kansas Ag Network's Greg Akagi, past president of the National Association of Farm

Broadcasters," Wilson said. As Kansas state champion, Floyd Beard received the coveted Governor's Buckle, the Saddlejack Bradrick Award, discounts and gift certificates from leading western wear stores, and two tickets to the Symphony in the Flint Hills. In addition, as state winner he will have his entry fees paid to compete in the National Cowboy Poetry Rodeo in Abilene.

State contest committee members include: Abby Amick, Alma; Tracy Henry, Wabaunsee County economic development director; Jeff Davidson, president, Kansas Chapter of Western Music Association, Greenwood County; Brad Hamilton, Hoyt; Geff Dawson, Alma, and Trey Allen, Junction City. For more information, go to www.cowboypetrycontest.com.

KSU's quarter scale tractor team places second at international competition

Continued from page 6

engineering, St. John, A team treasurer; Curtis Doughramaji, biological systems engineering, Topeka, X team; Peter Masters, biological systems engineering, Troy, A team; and Landon Becker, biological systems engineering, Wichita, X team.

From out of state: Mark Duncan, agricultural technology management, A team, and Josh Medeiros, agricultural technology

management, A team, both from Modesto, California; Alexander Nytko, biological systems engineering Roscoe, Illinois, X team; Tyler Siebels, agricultural technology management, Council Bluffs, Iowa, A team president; Lucas Weller, biological systems engineering, Rayville, Missouri, A team engineering student council representative; and Jason Scheer, biological systems engineering, Gretna, Nebraska, X team.

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Hours-of-service rule waiver available to livestock producers

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has granted a two-year waiver on the hours-of-service rule for certain drivers working with hog, cattle and poultry farmers. The standard rule requires drivers to take a 30-minute rest break for every eight hours of service. The driver would not be permitted to tend to livestock during this rest break. Several agricultural groups that have worked to educate their drivers on animal welfare and handling in transport do not support this rule as it does not promote optimum care for the animals, particularly in the hot summer months. The waiver to be exempt from the hours-of-service rule became effective June 12.

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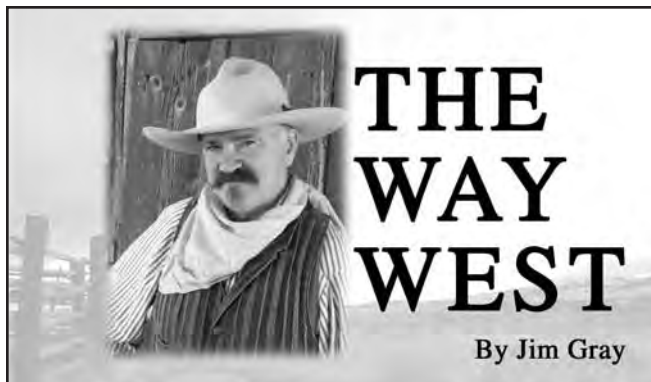
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THE WAY WEST

By Jim Gray

Traveling With "Friday" On The Santa Fe Trail

History is filled with all sorts of wonderful characters that time might have forgotten if not for their preservation through diaries, account books, and obscure literature. One of my favorite sources for little known information is Louise Barry's *The Beginning of the West*. It is one of those books that can be opened at any page to reveal extraordinary stories of travel across the plains before the Territory of Kansas was established in 1854.

The account of Rufus B. Sage found on page 512 is an example. The spring of 1844 had been an exceptionally wet season. The rivers and streams were overflowing all along the Santa Fe Trail, hampering travel for the wagon trains on the popular trader's route that paralleled the natural route of the Arkansas River across the plains. Not only were wagons waiting in the east to begin their voyage to Santa Fe, but a large number of mostly empty wagons were on the trail coming

from the west. Barry notes that on May 21, 1844, nearly one hundred people and "upwards of 50 wagons" were able to ford the Pawnee River (near present-day Larned, Kansas) after a delay of one month on the muddy banks of the flooded prairie stream. The traders were a combination of Mexican entrepreneurs and Anglo traders associated with Bent, St. Vrain, and Company.

Accompanying the traders were Cheyenne Chief Slim Face, Shawnee Chief Spy Buck, a young Arapaho named Friday, and an aspiring author by the name of Rufus B. Sage. Any one of the participants had a story to tell. One has only to pick a subject and investigate further. A few pages further revealed that the party was only able to travel a short distance to the Walnut River before becoming stalled again for several more weeks.

On June 17th the travelers were able to go around the flooded Walnut by crossing the Arkansas River as its levels began to rapidly decline. Leaving the wagons

to others, Sage and Friday mounted mules and swam the river. Several miles down river they were able to cross back to the north side and rejoin the main Santa Fe Trail. From there they continued toward Council Grove "in easy stages."

Sage intended to go to Arkansas. At Council Grove he bid his friend Friday adieu and turned southward along the Neosho River. Thirteen years later, Sage published the account of his adventures from 1841 to 1844 in the book, *Rocky Mountain Life*.

A search for that book led me to an online source on the internet. My online "library" of archaic books is quite formidable. Sage wrote of his first introduction to Independence and Westport, Missouri, and Fort Leavenworth just inside "Indian Territory," or the Kansas of today. From Westport Sage traveled across the state line "taking his initiatory lessons amid the realities of prairie life."

Sage was certain that this was truly one of Nature's favored spots. The

scene of "regal splendor" was one he believed he would never forget. The day of his first visit to the "border-prairies" had dawned clear and beautiful after an overnight shower had "purified the atmosphere." The fragrance of wild flowers perfumed "the breath of spring."

Everywhere he looked the ground was clothed with the "buttercup, tulip, pink violet, and daisy, with a variety of other beauties" captivating the eye and delighting his soul. Sage continued, "There is a charm in the loneliness - an enchantment in the solitude - a witching variety in the sameness, that must ever impress the traveler, when, for the first time, he enters within the confines of the great western prairies."

What prairie-born book-lover wouldn't want to read on? Sage is worthy of further explanation, but it was his description of Friday that intrigued me. Readers of *The Way West* may recall from an earlier column that the Arapaho boy was found on the dry prairie of south-west Kansas by the moun-

tain man "Broken Hand" Fitzgerald. The day was Friday, May 27, 1831, and from that day forth he was known as Friday.

In the time that Sage was with Friday the young Indian turned frontiersman told his story. He was six years old when he was unable to find his village. When Fitzgerald found him "he thought himself a dweller of the Spirit Land and a ranger of the hunting ground of happy souls." He believed that "palefaces" were hateful and wicked, but these people were kind. He spent five years in a St. Louis school. Though he did not live with his own people he became known to them as the Arapaho American, the young man who bridged two cultures as they struggled to understand one another 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 Drivers Hall of Fame. Contact Kansas Cowboy, Box 62, Ellsworth, KS 67439. Phone 785-531-2058.*

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Livestock Agent, Wildcat
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Sericea lespedeza (*Sericea lespedeza cuneata*), is an introduced perennial legume native to eastern Asia. It is recognized for its tolerance of drought, acidity, and shallow soils of low fertility. It has few insect and disease problems. *Sericea lespedeza*'s ability to thrive under a variety of conditions and its tendency to crowd out more palatable forages are among the reasons it has been declared a noxious weed in Kansas and may be considered as a noxious weed in Missouri, Nebraska, and Oklahoma.

Sericea was planted in the past to control soil erosion, provide forage for livestock, and provide cover and food for wildlife. From these plantings, it has spread by animals and movement of hay contaminated with *sericea* seed to native prairies, shrublands, forests, and introduced pas-

tures. Normal management practices such as grazing, burning, and applying herbicides do not adequately control *sericea lespedeza*.

Seven herbicide options are available for use on *sericea lespedeza*. For full instructions, cautions, and warnings, read the label before using a herbicide.

All the herbicides require *sericea lespedeza* plants be actively growing and have the ability to continue active growth after application. This means early growth (June to mid-July) must have new leaves being formed. After mid-July, the plants must be producing buds and moving to bloom stage. If the plants are not actively growing, DO NOT APPLY HERBICIDES. Results will be poor and not cost-effective.

In order to get good control, the amount of spray solution per acre must be increased. This is necessary to insure complete coverage of the *sericea lespedeza* plant. The recommended rates are:

By air - a minimum of three gallons per acre to as much as five gallons per acre for dense populations.

By ground - a minimum of ten gallons per acre to as much as 20 gallons per acre for dense stands.

For spot treatments - the plant must be covered with solution but not to the point that the solution drips from the plant.

Eight labeled herbicides are listed in KSU's Chemical Weed Control Publication: Remedy Ultra, Escort XP, Cimarron Plus, Cimarron Max, Cimarron X-TRA, Pasturegard, Surmount and Chaparral. Specific recommendations and labels for each of these herbicides is available at <http://www.agronomy.k-state.edu/extension/range-and-forage/sericea-lespedeza/>

Integrating more than one control method has been successful, such as using combinations of grazing or mowing followed by herbicides. Grazing with goats will suppress seed production and some recent research done at the Bressner pasture suggests that late season grazing with sheep can suppress seed production as well. Prescribed burning in the late spring stimulates seed production and should be fol-

lowed up with a herbicide treatment.

Sericea lespedeza found in native hay meadows is of concern but does not make the hay unharvestable. If the hay is cut before the *sericea lespedeza* begins budding, it can be hayed. The tannins that make *sericea lespedeza* unpalatable break down as the material dries resulting in a high quality hay. Reports indicate that cattle readily consume the *sericea lespedeza* as hay.

For control in native hay meadows, harvest the hay by mid-July. About six weeks later, if the *sericea lespedeza* is actively growing, apply a half rate of an approved and labeled herbicide following labeled instruction.

For information about this and other livestock and forage topics contact the K-State Research & Extension, Wildcat District office at (620) 784-5337 or email me at rkmartin@ksu.edu You can also like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Wildcat.Extension.District or follow me on Twitter at https://twitter.com/wed_live_stock

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AUCTION

SATURDAY, JUNE 27 — 10:00 A.M.
419 PARK ST. • ALTA VISTA, KS

FURNITURE & APPLIANCES: Maytag washer & dryer; kitchen table & 4 chairs; Sharp microwave; oak corner shelf; large oak glass front china hutch, nice; Heirloom walnut buffet, nice; Heirloom walnut dining table & 8 chairs, nice; small walnut china hutch, nice; Emerson HD TV; Panasonic DVD & VCR player; Globe Warnicke oak lawyer's stacking book case, 3 section; SW sofa sleeper, like new; end tables; 2 Lazy Boy recliners, like new; 2 bedroom sets, queen size bed, chest of drawers, dresser & mirror, nice; bookcases; blonde oak cedar chest; oak occasional tables; oak curved front dresser & mirror; small oak 5 drawer chest; walnut TV stand; 2 matching corner shelves; maple desk; several stereo's.

COLLECTIBLES, TOOLS & MISC.: small crock items; Dazey churn top; Hunter Sales adv piece;

enamel pcs; concrete horse; Zenith tube type console radio; Delivery Cycle tri-cycle; iron plant stands; 33 & 45 records; kerosene lamps; ladies head vases; Hull vases; several dolls; various prints German cuckoo clock; Gone With the Wind lamp, electric; Dan Dee bears 100th anniversary; linens & fancy work; all kinds of figures & small what nots; cook books; copper windmill; bird prints; walnut mantle clock; Fire King pcs.; sewing items; Coco Cola telephone; lady head dresser lamp; Mellmac type dinnerware; red wagon; Weedeater push mower; 6 ft. windmill; small aluminum extension ladder; Huffy mountain bike; metal kitchen cabinets; various hand tools and lots of boxes of misc.

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Ag land market continues a gradual decline

While current land values have generally trended lower this past year in comparison to the sharp increases of recent years, results of farm and ranch income at year's end could shift land market dynamics, according to Farmers National Company, the nation's leading farm and ranch real estate company.

"Harvest results of 2015 will make it a pivotal year, which could impact the land market for several years," said Randy Dickhut, AFM, vice president of real estate operations of Farmers National Company. "Farm and ranch income will drive the direction. A great deal could happen between now and November."

Dickhut says margin compression is occurring as a result of lower grain prices and steady input costs. He believes higher grain prices this fall would stabilize land values; however, lower prices could push values downward.

While farm and ranch profits are forecast to be lower in 2015 affecting annual cash flows, agriculture overall remains financially strong due to past profits.

Operators working to shore up financial stress brought on by overextending cash flow may be looking for strategies to improve their finances. This could lead to a boost in sales as property owners work to right balance sheets, according to Dickhut.

Location and quality of land continue to be the main drivers of pricing for individual tracts. The stability of this market is maintained by a lower supply of land for sale, contrasted with a continued demand for quality properties.

Farmers National Company statistics show the volume of properties for sale is down 40 percent over the past six months, as compared to the past two years. "The current level of available land is having a real impact on farm and ranch operations looking to expand," said Dickhut. "Demand is still good for quality land. The market just isn't as aggressive as in the past few years, so values are drifting sideways to lower."

The market slowdown can, in some ways, be blamed on the absence of tax policy changes, which

helped prompt sales this past year to some degree. While land values are down nearly 10 percent in most areas, price softening is happening at different rates in each region. For example, sales in the Northwest have been brisk, as the California drought is driving activity north. The Southern Delta region hasn't seen much decline, while parts of the Midwest are experiencing significant drops in value.

While current buyers are predominantly active farmers and ranchers adding land to their operations, interest from investment funds and individuals is on the rise. In addition, generational land transfers continue to play a large role in market movements, as many inheriting land choose to sell.

"With the softening of land values, some investors are looking at this as an opportunity time to buy," said Dickhut. "Land is considered a low risk long-term investment, so we will see these types of buyers jumping into the land market more and more over the next several years."

Demand for cropland and grazing land from owner operators remains good, but buyers are being more realistic in what they will pay given lower grain prices. Land professionals are recommending that sellers be more realistic in evaluating the quality of their land and the expected

selling price in order to have a successful sale.

According to Dickhut, long-term economic trends look positive in relation to land values and ag markets. Demand for feed grains and protein sources by China and other world markets will remain strong long term as the growing world

population has a desire to eat better.

"Demand for our products creates a positive outlook," said Dickhut. "Any adjustments to values and sales activity are likely to be slow and steady so the impact won't be overwhelming."

AUCTION

SATURDAY, JUNE 27 — 10:00 AM

To be held at the house located at 210 & 214 Mason Street, Morrowville, Kansas
AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: The real estate will sell at 1:00 PM. Two rings will be selling the majority of the day.

TRACT I — 210 & 214 MASON STREET, MORROWVILLE, KANSAS

Legal Description: Lots 3-6, Block C, Morrow 2nd Addition, Section 26, Township 2 North, Range 2 East of the 6th PM, Washington County Kansas.

General Description: This tract consists of 2 houses, 2 stall garage, small outbuildings, and a lot measuring 200' x 140'. The house at 214 Mason Street has 3 bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, and open living & dining room. The home is heated with a heating stove. The house at 210 Mason Street is uninhabitable and for storage only.

TAXES: The 2014 were \$341.66. The 2015 taxes shall be prorated to the date of final settlement on the basis of the 2014 taxes.

TRACT II (LOT TO EAST OF TRACT I)

Legal Description: South 40' of Lot 11, All of Lot 12, & N. 10' of Lot 13, Block B, Morrow 2nd Addition, Section 26, Township 2 North, Range 2 East of the 6th PM, Washington County Kansas.

General Description: This tract consists of .3 acres with fencing, open-front shed, and tool sheds.

TAXES: The 2014 were \$18.79. The 2015 taxes shall be prorated to the date of final settlement on the basis of the 2014 taxes.

INSPECTION: Please contact Justin Schultis at 402-300-1230 to schedule an appointment to view the property.

MANNER OF SALE: Each tract will be sold individually and will not be combined.

TRACTORS & EQUIPMENT

Allis Chalmers WD 45 Tractor, WF, Does Not Run; Ford 8N Tractor, Tin Looks Complete, Does Not Run; Bush Hog 3 Point Shredder; Case Manure Spreader; Dirt Scoop; Dearborn Sickle Mower; Stock Tank

VAN & SCOOTER

1994 Dodge Caravan, 3.3 L V6 Engine, 3 Door, 133,624 Miles; 1947 Cushman Scooter, Does Not Run, May Be Complete, Has Title

FIREARMS

Colt 22, Hexagon Barrel; Remington 22 S-L or LR; I Precision 880 Starter Pistol; BB Guns

PRIMITIVES, ANTIQUES, & COLLECTIBLES

Powerama 3 Wheeled Peddle Tractor; Tin Pedal Tractor; White Commode; Painted Dresser; Oak Glass Door Cabinet Top; Signal Metal Fan; Pepsi Sign, "Say Pepsi Please"; Drink Legra Thermometer; Silverleaf Lard Can; Archer Cans; Cream Can; Wire Baskets; Ammo Box; Metal Boxes; Shoe Lathe; Fire Extinguisher; Galv. Buckets, Funnels, Etc.; Welby Starburst Clock; Forestville Starburst Clock; Horse Collar & Hames; Red Kitchen Stool; Old Lockers; Pink Enamel Oval Baby Bath; Several Pieces of Enamelware; Wood Doors; Lawn Chief Wringer Washer; Chrome Chairs; Walking Plows; Briggs & Stratton Washing Machine Motor; Radio Flyer Wagon; Painted Metal Stool; Metal Chairs; Metal Mail Boxes; Grinding Mill; Red Metal High Chair; Several Wood Chairs; Oak Dresser w/ Mirror; Oak

Wardrobe/Dresser; Oak Mission Style Shelf; Wood Hall Tree; Brass Bed; Several Old Irons; Several Old Toys; Wood Ladders; Enamel Top Kitchen Cabinet; Treadle Sewing Machine; Jars w/ Zinc Lids; Square Wash Tub; Sprinkle Cans; Metal Scooters; Red Wing Chicken Feeder; Old Light Fixtures; Wood Porch Posts; Several Metal Fans; High Wheel Walk-Behind Cultivator; Wash Tub w/ Wringer; Wainscot Cabinets; Metal Pigeon Hole Cabinet; Copper Boilers; Old Cameras; Old Radios; Cast Iron Skillets; License Plates; Oak Chest of Drawers; Old Suitcases; Painted Wood Tables; Several Old Books; Painted Medicine Cabinet; Wood Boxes; Painted Cabinet Top; Trunk w/ Doors on the Front w/ Drawers Inside; Seeder; Several Iron Wheels; Sleds; Wood Porch Swing; Horse Drawn Stalk Chopper; Model A Trunk; Tin Match Box Holders; Stove Handles; Clay & Glass Marbles; Beater w/ Glass Gar; Lion Head Mantel Clock; Horse Hitching Post Top; Nut Chopper; Lanterns; Dietz Buckeye Dash Railroad Lantern; Nail City Lantern Co Crank Tubular Lantern; Oil Lamps; Carnival Glass; Camel Back Trunk; Waterfall Chest of Drawers; Several Wood Rolling Pins; Old Razors; FireKing, Pyrex & Other Glassware; 10 Gal. Ruckel's Crock; Green Glass Shakers; Fire King Range Set; Alum. Cups & Pitchers; Dazey No. 40 Churns; Depression Glassware; Peach Luster Glassware; Milk Glassware;

Large Plate Collection; Large Salt & Pepper Collection; Large Cream & Sugar Collection; Paper Dolls; Comic Books; MANY ITEMS TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION

TOOLS, HOUSEHOLD, & MISCELLANEOUS

Lawn Chief 300 Riding Mower; Bench Vise; Leg Vise; Grinder; Oil Cans; Gun Rack; Bolt Bins; Tackle Box; Electric Drills; Drill Braces; Motors; Tool Boxes; Anvil; Hand Saws; Several Long Handled Tools; Trouble Light; Chains; 2 Wheel Cart; Barbed Wire; Vise Grips; Pickup Tool Box; Chain Link Fence; Push Mower; Screw Drivers; Picnic Table; Whirlpool Electric Stove; Whirlpool Refrigerator, Like New; Pots & Pans; MANY ITEMS TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION



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PERSONAL PROPERTY BIG AUCTION

AUCTION

SATURDAY, JUNE 27 — 9:00 AM

AUCTION & PROPERTY LOCATION:

317 Spring St. — COTTONWOOD FALLS, KANSAS 66845

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: You won't want to miss this auction! Kain was a talented musician who played with such bands as the Doors and was quite the craftsman as he and Jeanette remodel several homes. Their collection includes items from New York to LA to Cottonwood Falls. This will be a large auction! We will run 2 rings the entire day, starting with the tools and antiques, then selling the guns and model trains at 10:00am.

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Sorghum Checkoff referendum results resoundingly supportive

The referendum on the continuation of the Sorghum Checkoff passed by an overwhelming 96.5 percent as reported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service.

"Results from the referendum indicate sorghum farmers across the nation believe in the work the Sorghum Checkoff is doing," said Sorghum Checkoff chairman Dale Murden. "This was a very important vote and signals the Checkoff is providing results and

advancing the industry in a way that leads to farmer profitability."

The Sorghum Checkoff referendum, hosted by USDA-AMS, was held by producer vote March 23 through April 21, 2015, and yielded 1,160 votes in favor and 42 votes against the continuation of the Sorghum Checkoff with Texas and Kansas producing the largest voter turnout. Votes were received from 18 states.

"The sorghum industry is at a turning point," said Tim

Lust, Sorghum Checkoff and National Sorghum Producers CEO, "and we're pleased to see we have vast support from sorghum farmers who are the foundation of our industry."

"Our organizations are working hard for the sorghum industry and the American farmer," Lust said. "These results reaffirm positive momentum in the industry and signal we are on the track to do great things on behalf of sorghum farmers."



Bad forecast

The Symphony in the Flint Hills wasn't supposed to happen, at least not according to the weather forecasters. Prediction models based upon the most current climatological data gave eighty percent odds for thunderstorms throughout the afternoon and evening hours, with heavy rain as the primary threat. Nor was the scheduled rain date's forecast any better. The parking lot, a series of fenced pastures capable of accommodating upwards of 8,000 ticket holders and volunteers, was already soggy from previous rains and would turn bottomless fairly quickly should another inch or two fall. The odds were overwhelmingly against it, but then, odds can be as unpredictable and capricious as the weather.

My gut instinct was to stay home. I was tired from photographing a rodeo the previous night, short on sleep and long on stress, and I deserved a nap. Rain was falling steadily here in Blue Rapids, two hours north of the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, and the thought of slogging one mile from the parking lot to the concert area in the rain and sitting on the ground for a two-hour concert in the rain and then walking back out in the rain had dampened much of my enthusiasm for attending. Commentators on the Symphony's Facebook page expressed doubts about attending and more doubts about the condition of the parking lot. And when organizers finally asked attendees to carpool and, if possible, to bring four-wheel-

drive vehicles, the effect was almost electric. It would be a complete and utter debacle.

Not going, though, would mean forfeiting the cost of a ticket plus missing out on hearing Lyle Lovett in person. Being an inveterate waffler, I vacillated between going or not going until my wife was ready to scream. In desperation, she finally asked me to contact a friend from Emporia who was going. When I asked him for an update from his perspective, he wasn't very optimistic.

"It depends on your tolerance for suffering," he said. "Parking in a mud pit, an hour's hike in stifling humidity. Nevertheless, these kind of conditions might provide unique photo opportunities. And it may be better than I expect."

"We'll be there in two hours," I said.

Anything for a photo op.

It rained all the way to the Chase County line, then petered off. A mere abatement, I thought, a postponement of the inevitable. Yet I was shocked to see hundreds of people making the long trek to the white tents shining in the distance without any form of jacket or rain gear or hats or umbrellas, as if they were oblivious to the forecast. My years of hiking the backcountry of Colorado and New Mexico had conditioned me to always plan for the worst as if it were a matter of survival. Not that getting wet would kill me, obviously, but it wouldn't do my camera any good. Before setting off I jammed a poncho in a shoulder bag for Lori and

wrapped my jacket around my waist.

Halfway to the tents the clouds started breaking up. By the time we reached the photography tent where our works were on display, temperatures had spiked ten degrees and the humidity had gone off the charts. Big patches of blue skies appeared in the west. I didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

I realize that predicting the weather is a lot like reading tea leaves in the bottom of a cup. It can be done if you use your imagination and rely on intangibles and just enough science to make it sound plausible. And yet something seemed odd about the way the storm broke, how the afternoon and evening got better and better until people used the word "miraculous" to describe the indescribable. The way the light fell across the flower-studded grasslands as a herd of cattle was pushed across the rolling hills behind the performance tent, how the cowboys atop their steeds seemed gilded in radiance, somehow not real but mythical and the West not yet won, how the prairie seemed greener and the blue skies bluer and the flowers more colorful, and how, yes, the audience sensed the inexplicable, almost preternatural benevolence bestowed by the turbulent air masses and responded in kind with uncommon grace and joie de vivre. People danced in the aisles or along the periphery of the crowd, they cheered and sang and clapped as the orchestra imbued their surroundings with lyric precision—prairie songs, western songs, songs of the inland sea of grass—followed seamlessly by that Texas balladeer Lyle Lovett and his songs of West Texas, of cowboys and hard-luck drifters, of small towns and destinies and place. It was truly a magical experience, breathtaking in scope, and maybe just a bit more magical because of a bad forecast.

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Depth of soybean seed plays a major factor in whether seedlings are able to emerge. In most cases, farmers aim to plant soybeans between 1 and 1 1/2 inches deep. In a university study, researchers showed that as depth varied from optimum soybean plant emergence rate dropped by as much as 20%. Source: Iowa State University, North Dakota State University

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Auction Sales Scheduled

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

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

June 25 - Land Auction at Olsburg. Auctioneers: Farmers National Company.

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 Auction: 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 & col-

lectibles, 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 27 - Mobile home, furniture, Ford school bus, household, tools, misc. at Willard for the late Devere and Grace Miller. Auctioneers: Gannon Auctions.

June 27 - Real estate, tractors & equipment, van and scooter, firearms, primitives, antiques and collectibles, tools, household and misc. at Morrowville for Bonnie Elliott. Auctioneers: Schultis and Sons.

June 27 - Furniture, appliances, collectibles, tools and misc. at Alta Vista for Roberta Olson. Auctioneers: Hallgren Auctions.

June 27 - Machinery, livestock equipment, furniture, appliances, household, toy tractors, shop tools, collectibles and antiques at Sabetha for Lee and Esther White. Auctioneers: Ash RE and Auction.

June 27 - Rescheduled from June 6, real estate, cars, trailers, antiques, furniture/household, yard tools and equipment, etc. at Topeka for Thomas and Kathryn Carlyle. Auction-

eers: Kellner Realty and Auction.

June 28 - Furniture, scooter, household, clock collection, lawn and yard tools, etc. at Manhattan for Gene and Carol Hoerman. Auctioneers: Gannon Auctions.

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

June 28 - Restaurant and catering equipment at Baldwin City for L&M Catering. Auctioneers: Edgcomb Auctions.

June 28 - Furniture, appliances, glassware & collectibles, handicap equipment, tools, misc. at Junction City for Eileen J. Keller. Auctioneers: Brown Auctions.

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

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

July 3 - Tractors, trucks, farm machinery, furniture, collectibles and household items at Newton for Mildred, Otto and Howard Regier Estate. Auctioneers: Van Schmidt Auctions.

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

July 8 - Real estate at White

City for Susan L. Johnson Trust. Auctioneers: Hallgren Auctions.

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, antiques, 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.

July 25-26 - Heartland Winery & Vineyard Open House, the summer Kansas Grape Growers & Winemakers Association open house weekend.

July 12 - Van, office supplies, new office supplies, collectibles, miscellaneous at Lawrence for M&M Office Supply. Auctioneers: Elston Auctions.

July 30- Aug. 2 - Barn Quilt exhibit in the flower room in Armory building at the Central Kansas Free Fair, Abilene.

August 5 - Farm and industrial equipment consignment auction at Beattie. Auctioneers: Rottinghaus Equipment Auctions.

Sept. 7 - Chapman Labor Day Festival including a Barn Quilt walk and the Class of '77 Car Show, Chapman.

September 7 - 20th annual Labor Day auction at Lyndon. Auctioneers: Harley Gerdes Auctions.

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PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION

SUNDAY, JUNE 28 - 11:00 AM

2323 North Jackson - JUNCTION CITY, KS

FURNITURE & APPLIANCES: Curved Glass China Cabinet, Corner China Cabinet, Haywood-Wakefield Maple Dining Table & Buffet, Drop Leaf Dining Table w/4-Side Chairs, 2-Chrome Kitchen Tables w/4-Chairs Each, Hide-a-bed Sofa, Sofa, Round End Table, Glass Top Octagon & Square End Tables, Round Coffee Table, Coffee Table, 2-End Tables, Lazy-Boy Recliner, Lane Recliner, Lift Chair, 2 Overstuffed Occ Chairs, Arrow Back Rocker, Ornate Corner Shelf, **Antique 3 Drawer Chest**, Maple Bedroom Set (Double Bed, Dresser & End Table), Double Bed, Queen Box Spring & Mattress, 4 Drawer Chest, Writing Table, White Utility Bench, 2-2 Tier Book Shelves, Nick-Knack Shelves, Metal Kitchen Cabinet, Doll Dresser, Student Desk, Round Foot Stool, 4-Folding Stools, Card Table w/4-Padded Chairs, Dresser, Table & Floor Lamps, Square Tub Wash Stand, VCR Player, Hoover Upright & Tank Vacuums, Dirt Devil Hand Vacuum, GE Microwave, Whirlpool Washer & Dryer.

GLASSWARE & COLLECTIBLES: Noritake China Set w/Misc Plates, PG Pitcher & Decanter, Bone China Tea Cups & Saucers, Glass Bride's Basket, Frosted Glass Pedestal Cake Plate, Several Glass Cake Plates, Amber Glass Candle Holders & Bowl, Cut Glass Bowl & Cream/Sugar, Alfred Meakin Bone Dishes, Fostoria Footed Bowl & Cream/Sugar, RS Prussia Bowl, Prussian Chocolate Pot, Ruby Red Cups, Covered Candy Dish, 2-Vasiline Candy Dishes, Gold Trimmed Bud Vase, Misc Decorative Plates, Oriental Ironstone Pitcher & 6-Cups, Salt & Pepper Sets, Queen Court Stainless 8 Place Setting Flatware, International Sterling Flatware, Holmes & Edwards Silver Plate Flatware, Silver Plate Napkin Rings, Silver Plate Serving Set w/Footed Platter, #3 Red Wing Crock, #2 Union Crock, Beehive Crock Jug, **Lone Wolf (Facing Right) Picture**, Seth Thomas Mantle Clock, German Anniversary Clock, Shapleigh Hardware Co Kerosene Lantern, Kerosene Lamps, Aladdin Lamps, Reverse 8MM Movie Projector, Old Wooden Sewing Basket, Old Books, Cook Books, Sewing Books, Hand Crank Ice Cream Freezer, Singer Sewing Machine Frame.

HANDICAP EQUIPMENT, TOOLS & MISCELLANEOUS: Mac's Model PL 50 Lift Gate, Jazzy 1103 Ultra Electric Scooter, Wheel Chair, 2-Walkers, Walking Cane, Port-A-Pot, Weedeater Electric Leaf Blower, B&D 16" Electric Hedge Trimmer, Jiffy Electric String Trimmer, Hand Tools, Garden Tools, Small Kitchen Appliances, Metal Canister Set, Several Pieces Of Corningware, Pots & Pans, Alum Roaster, Table Cloths, Linens & Napkins, Bedding, Misc Office Supplies, Desk Top Calculator, Games, Puzzles, Rods & Reels, Luggage, Foot Locker, Bushel Baskets, Round Galvanized Wash Tub, Bird Bath, Metal Wagon Wheel, 2-Garden Chairs. **THIS WILL BE A VERY LARGE SALE WITH MANY, MANY MORE ITEMS TO NUMEROUS TO LIST.**

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Soybean farmers prepared for phase-out of partially hydrogenated oils

Trans fats have been an active part of the soy industry's vernacular for decades. And, for the past decade, the industry - including the farmers who grow soybeans - have been working on solutions to meet food-customer needs for a stable oil without partial hydrogenation, which causes trans fats.

The FDA's recent announcement to phase out partially hydrogenated vegetable oils did not come as a shock to soybean farmers. In fact, the United Soybean Board (USB) has been working with industry on two replacement options for partially hydrogenated soybean oil for more than ten years. And now, those solutions are coming to the forefront.

"The soy industry estimates that two-billion pounds of partially hydrogenated soybean oil are used in food today," says Jimmy Sneed, a soybean farmer from Hernando, Mis-

issippi and USB farmer-leader. "We're excited to bring solutions like high oleic and interesterified soybean oil to the market and ready to shift the discussion to innovation." High oleic soybeans produce an oil that food companies can use for stability without the need for partial hydrogenation. Farmers currently grow high oleic soybeans in nine states, with more acreage being added each year.

Commodity soybean farmers can help with the solution, as well. By inter-esterifying commodity soybean oil, processors produce a hard fat, similar to the consistency of margarine, which helps meet needs for some baking customers.

"The U.S. food industry continues to be an important customer to soybean farmers and the entire soybean industry," adds Sneed. "High oleic soybeans and interesterified soybean oil

are solutions brought on-line to help food companies maintain the taste consumers prefer, while using a domestically sourced, sustainable oil."

The FDA has been considering removing the Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAS) status of partially hydrogenated oils since late 2013. After an open comment period in 2014, it announced this week intentions to phase out partially hydrogenated oils over the next three years.

Farmers interested in helping bring the solutions to the market sooner through high oleic soybeans should talk to their local seed or processing representative, or visit soyinnovation.com.

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8 - 6:30 PM
601 KEARNEY • WHITE CITY, KS

OPEN HOUSE: JUNE 29th 6 to 7 pm

DESCRIPTION: Bungalow style house with 1 bedroom and 1 bath downstairs. There is space upstairs for another bedroom. This property need some remodel work, but is an excellent rental property, just 6 blocks from campus. 50X140 corner lot.

TERMS & CONDITION: 15% earnest money due the day of the auction. Balance due when merchantable title and warranty deed are delivered. Closing and possession on or before August 7, 2015. Property sells in As-Is condition. All Buyer's inspections are to be done prior to the auction. Sale is not contingent on the Buyer obtaining financing. Broker and Auctioneers are representing the Seller.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT
GREG HALLGREN
AT 785-499-2897.

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318 +- ACRE IRRIGATED TILLABLE FARM GROUND AUCTION

FRIDAY, JULY 17 - 11:00 AM
STUDIO 96 INC., 121 S. BROADWAY - STERLING, KS
CAROL JEAN KILBOURN TRUST, SELLER

HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE • EXCELLENT LOCATION ENHANCE YOUR FARMING AND RANCHING BUSINESS OR ADD TO YOUR PORTFOLIO AS A HIGH QUALITY LONG TERM INVESTMENT.

TRACT 1: 160+- acres of center pivot irrigated tillable farm ground
LAND LOCATION: From Sterling, Kansas north on HWY 14 1 1/2 Miles. **TRACT 2:** 78+- acres partially irrigated tillable farm ground.
LAND LOCATION: Across the road west of Tract 1. **TRACT 3:** 80+- acres of partially irrigated tillable farm ground. **LAND LOCATION:** 1/2 mile South of Tracts 1 & 2 on 15th.

ALL IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT IS OWNED BY THE CURRENT TENANT.

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RECREATION LAND **2 TRACTS**

LAND AUCTION

TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 2015 ~ 6:00PM

Auction Location: 11535 SE Oregon Road, Kincaid, Kansas 66039
Property Preview: Monday, June 22 ~ 2:00 - 5:00 PM

395 acres of rolling and scenic grassland w/timber and 7 ponds in eastern Kansas selling in 2 tracts. Property includes 3 bed/1 bath home w/ attached 2-car garage. Excellent potential as a hunt, fish, and recreation property.

Terms:
\$50,000 (T1)/\$20,000 (T2) Down at Auction
Balance Due at Closing

Seller: Brixey Family Trust, Donald and Leanna Brixey
Property Address: 11535 SE Oregon Rd, Kincaid, KS 66039

Directions: From Kincaid, KS on Hwy. 31, go west 2 miles to Oregon Rd., go south 1.5 miles to property (Look for Signs).

Full Details, Terms, and Photos Available At:
www.ucgreatplains.com

Auction Conducted By:
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(620) 412-9693

Charly Cummings, Auctioneer 620-496-7108
Lance Fullerton, Auctioneer 620-412-7505
Carrie Cummings, Realtor 620-496-7108
Trisha Fullerton, Realtor/Office Manager



BAXTER BLACK

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

Dead Sheep

There's been a dead sheep out in Brent's wheat field for a month. Emilio had a band of ewes on the corn stalks across the road. I reckon that one got hit by a car.

The sheep have moved on. Brent plowed his field. Plowed around the carcass. Now it is sort of mouldering into the earth. I see it every

time I drive to town. Nobody pays much attention to it. It's rural out here. But we had company last week, town folks. They seemed a little upset that we'd just drive by a dead sheep day after day and not give it a second thought.

It reminded me of my trip to the nation's capital. The parks and sidewalks speckled with people, beggars and winos. I couldn't help but notice them. Where do they live? How much do they make a day holdin' out a cup? Do they sleep in the park?

When I expressed my concern about these ragged folks, the locals seemed surprised. They hadn't given it much thought, they said. Welfare or the soup kitchens, they guessed. This human flotsam was just part of the landscape, like bus fumes and potholes.

I wonder what sort of furor would erupt if there was a dead sheep at the corner of 9th St. and Pennsylvania Ave.? Would they just

haul it off or would there be an investigation? Would it be a police matter, the State Department, Department of Agriculture, the local humane society?

In small towns a homeless person stands out like a dead sheep on the White House lawn! I would like to think they would be offered help. I do know they wouldn't fade inconspicuously into the woodwork. They would, at the very least, get a lot of attention. They might even get arrested as vagrants!

Sometimes country compassion comes with a price. "We'll get you fixed up and get you a job." Maybe, just maybe, some of these drifters don't want jobs. Maybe they prefer the anonymity of big cities where no one cares, but at least no one makes any demands.

Do people become more civilized when they move to the city? Or do they become more civilized when they move back to the country? I don't know the answer to that.

But I guess I could go drag that ol' sheep off. I thought if I waited long enough the coyotes or United Way would take care of the problem. Course, maybe the sheep likes it there.

K-State survey indicates lower farmland prices, more non-performing loans in the short-term outlook

Agricultural lenders are reporting decreased farmland values and increases in non-performing farm loans. According to the results of an Agricultural Lender Survey conducted by the Kansas State University Department of Agricultural Economics in March, this is a continuation of a trend witnessed in the end-of-year survey conducted in 2014. "For the first time since we began this survey, the majority of respondents thought land values declined," said Allen Featherstone, professor and department head of the K-State Department of Agricultural Economics. Additionally, he mentioned that the long-term expectation also pointed to declines in land values.

Researchers pointed to uncertainty in the markets regarding interest rates and competition amongst the lenders as some of the long-term factors in the results, which still showed a strong

credit market for producers. Lenders cited lower commodity prices, rising operating costs and the softening of cash rents. Combining these with a decrease in farmland prices created concern in the long-term financial health of the farming sector. However, in reference to the increase in non-performing loans, Featherstone said he believes the market is just cycling back to a normal state. The study indicated a stronger market of loan availability in the agricultural market, which would benefit producers in the future. Research shows that bankers are still interested in agricultural investments, but experts say the farmers are going to have to show a strong investment plan.

"Producers are going to encounter cautious lenders," Featherstone said. "Farmers will have to be well-prepared and document plans going forward to continue to access credit at

good rates."

The Agricultural Lender Survey included 39 lending institution responses. Lenders in the survey considered five key areas: farm loan interest rates, spread over cost of funds, farm loan volumes, non-performing loan volumes and agricultural land values.

Various K-State Department of Agricultural Economics researchers developed and conducted the survey, including Brady Brewer, recent doctoral graduate; Brian Briggeman, associate professor and director of the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center; Allen Featherstone; and Christine Wilson, professor.

For more information about the outlook for agricultural credit conditions and commentary on areas of concern within agriculture, go to the K-State Agricultural Lender Survey www.ag-economics.k-state.edu/research/ag-lender-survey/index.html.

NWF launches wheat harvest photo contest

America's wheat harvest is something to celebrate. The National Wheat Founda-

tion is proud to sponsor a photo contest recognizing wheat farmers and showcas-

ing this year's harvest season.

"We are excited to announce the 2015 Wheat Harvest Photo Contest," said National Wheat Foundation Chairman and Colorado wheat farmer, Dusty Tallman. "We want to commemorate this year's harvest and thank America's wheat farmers by inviting all to enter our photo contest."

Entering the photo contest is simple. Email your best 2015 wheat harvest picture to kbullerman@wheatworld.org. Photos will be posted on the National Wheat Foundation's Facebook page. The Foundation directors will vote to determine the winning photo. All photos must be received by August 28, 2015. The NWF Directors will be awarding four winners. First place will receive an iPad and three runners up will receive a 50-dollar gift card. The winning photos will be displayed in the Wheat Growers office in Washington, D.C.

"America's wheat farmers are dedicated to producing a healthy, sustainable and safe wheat crop harvesting over 45 million acres each year," said Tallman. "Join us in celebrating the 2015 wheat harvest and the continued success of the U.S. wheat industry."

Contest Rules: Photos must have been taken during the 2015 wheat harvest. Entries must be submitted by email to kbullerman@wheatworld.org before August 28, 2015. There is no limit on the number of entries. Entrants must be located in the United States and be at least 14 years of age.

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