

Schwieterman Market Outlook

A marketing commentary by Bret Crotts

This week we will have the February supply and demand report. The average trade guesses for corn, wheat, and soybean ending stocks would suggest that it is going to be a very dull report. Chances are that we

won't see many changes, but I do fear that we may see a cut to U.S. wheat export demand, which could put the ending stocks estimate near 1 billion bushels. There isn't any way to put a positive spin on a 1 billion

bushel carry-over for U.S. wheat, so that makes me a little nervous. As for the corn and soybeans, the export numbers haven't been consistent enough to warrant either a cut to increase in the export estimates. I wouldn't be surprised to see the grain sorghum export estimate increased, but that isn't really market-moving information.

On the charts, the wheat looks far and away the worst. The March KW made a new contract low on Friday and there is no sign of support. The U.S. dollar made a huge break last week and that didn't seem to provide any support at all. The only concrete news we had was a terrible export sales report, which served to reconfirm that demand is very bad. Perhaps a lower dollar will help the U.S. wheat eventually, but I don't think anyone is going to care

until we actually see big export sales numbers.

The soybean chart doesn't look too good either. The March soybeans fell below the 50-day moving average on Thursday and below trend line support on Friday. The next downside objective is the \$8.50 area. There is a bit of a bright side to the soybean complex and that is the rising world vegetable oil market. U.S. soybean oil has been strong and if it continues to climb it would be supportive to the soybeans, but in the short run there isn't much to get excited about as far as the soybeans themselves are concerned.

The corn chart looked pretty bullish early in the week when the market was making new highs for the move, but by Friday the March contract was below the 50-day moving average and testing the recent lows. The \$3.64 area is now critical support and a failure there would suggest the market is headed back to \$3.50. Demand for corn and milo is still very good, which is the biggest supporting factor for the corn market, but it is going to take some very large export sales to allow for consistent gains.

The best hope for the corn is a weather problem this spring or summer.

Live cattle futures made new highs for the move on hopes of higher cash cattle trade, but as of early Friday afternoon that trade had not materialized. Friday's close in the futures was fairly poor and generated some good short term sell signals, so we may be in for a poor start this week, especially if the stock market is weaker Sunday night. The feeder cattle futures didn't do as well as the live cattle for the week and Friday's close would have to be considered bearish. The March feeders are back below the 50-day moving average and appear to be headed for the \$150 level. A close below \$150 would indicate we are in for a much larger break, perhaps as low as \$130-\$135.

Schwieterman Marketing, L.L.C. specializes in risk management and cash grain and livestock marketing plans.

For information on the markets or our marketing service you can contact Bret Crotts at 888-437-9131 or bret@swbell.net.

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Clay Pelton, Paradise, won champion Angus-based steer at the 2016 Kansas Angus Futurity Junior Show, Jan. 24 in Hutchinson.

Photo by Jeff Mafi, American Angus Association



Sarah Pelton, Paradise, won reserve champion Angus-based steer at the 2016 Kansas Angus Futurity Junior Show, Jan. 24 in Hutchinson.

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Beef Board elects 2016 Leadership Team at Industry Convention

Cattle producers Anne Anderson of Austin, Texas, Brett Morris of Ninnekah, Oklahoma, and Joan Ruskamp of Dodge, Nebraska are the new leadership team for the Cattlemen's Beef Board, elected unanimously by fellow Beef Board members during the 2016 Cattle Industry Convention in San Diego on Jan. 29, 2016. Anderson will serve as chairman, Morris as vice chairman and Ruskamp as secretary/treasurer of the Cattlemen's Beef Board to lead the national Beef Checkoff Program for the coming year.

The Beef Board also elected members to serve on the CBB Executive Committee and others to fill the CBB seats on the Beef Promotion Operating Committee.

NEW BEEF BOARD OFFICER TEAM

Newly elected Beef Board chairman Anne Anderson is a cow-calf and stocker operator from Austin Texas and was the first executive director of the Texas Beef Council. She and her husband, Jim, own a small cattle ranch in Colorado County and a larger one, which Anne manages, in Menard and McCulloch counties. In addition to ranching, she spent more than 15 years providing assistance to individuals and groups trying to build new companies - mostly in the beef industry, and all in the food industry. Anne also is a co-founder and former CEO of AgInfoLink Global, one of the largest food-tracking companies in the U.S., with additional international offices in Australia, Canada, Mexico and Argentina.

Newly appointed CBB vice chairman Brett Morris is a third-generation dairy farmer and runs a dairy, cow/calf and stocker operation, as well as the Washita

Fertilizer Company, in partnership with his father. Theirs is a diversified farm operation, including about 1,000 acres of alfalfa, wheat and grassland, 65 registered Holstein cows for milking, 100-125 beef cows, and 200 stocker calves. Morris served as chairman of the Oklahoma Dairy Commission, vice chairman of the Oklahoma John's Advisory Committee, as a district voting delegate to DFA, a director of the Federation of State Beef Councils, and as vice chairman of the Oklahoma Beef Council.

2016 CBB Secretary/Treasurer Joan Ruskamp and her husband, Steve, operate a feedlot and row-crop farm west of Dodge, Nebraska, that has been in Steve's family for nearly 100 years. On the farm, Joan's main jobs include walking pens, cattle doctoring/ processing, and office manager. She is a graduate of the University of Nebraska at Curtis, where she earned an associate degree in veterinary medicine in 1980. Joan has been very active in the beef industry, with service to numerous producer organizations. In addition, she has been a 4-H leader for about 20 years, an EMT for more than a decade, and a religious education teacher for nearly 30 years.

CBB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The 12-member CBB Executive Committee includes the Board's three officers and eight members elected at large. The CBB elected the following members to its 2016 Executive committee: vice chairman Brett Morris, who will serve as chairman of the Executive Committee; and members Anne Anderson (CBB chairman); Brett Morris (CBB vice chairman), Joan Ruskamp (CBB secretary/ treasurer); Laurie

Bryant, an importer representative; Chuck Coffey of Oklahoma; Barbara Jacques of Oklahoma; Jana Malot of Pennsylvania; Paul Moss of Tennessee; Kent Pruismann of Iowa; Mike Smith of California; Janna Stubbs of Texas; and, as immediate past CBB chairman Jimmy Maxey of California will serve as an advisor to the committee.

The Executive Committee operates under the di-

rection of and within the policies established by the full Board and is responsible for carrying out Beef Board policies and conducting business and making decisions necessary to administer the terms and provisions of the Act and Order between meetings of the full Board.

OPERATING COMMITTEE

The Beef Promotion Operating Committee was cre-

ated by the Beef Promotion Research Act to help coordinate state and national beef checkoff programs. The 20-person committee includes ten members of the Cattlemen's Beef Board, among them the Board's three officers and seven others elected directly by Beef Board members. The other ten members are appointed from the Federation of State Beef Councils.

CBB members elected to

the 2016 Beef Promotion Operating Committee during the annual meeting in San Antonio include: chairman Anne Anderson; Vice Chairman Brett Morris; Secretary/Treasurer Joan Ruskamp; Jared Brackett of Idaho; Sara Childs of Florida; Joe Guthrie of Virginia; Jeanne Harland of Illinois; Chuck Kiker of Texas; Stacy McClintock of Kansas; and Gary Sharp of South Dakota.

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JSAR Mr Titan 271BNRWC won reserve grand champion steer at the 2016 Kansas Angus Futurity Junior Show, Jan. 24 in Hutchinson. Sydnee Shive, Mount Hope, owns the March 2015 son of JSAR Titan. Mark Johnson, Mulhall, Okla., evaluated the 82 entries.

Photo by Jeff Mafi, American Angus Association

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APPLIANCES: Older smooth top range; older washer & dryer; microwave.

GENERAL HOUSEHOLD: Kitchenwares; home decora-

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ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES: Collection of VanBriggle pottery; pressed glass; electrified Rayo chrome lantern with shade; cast iron wall mount lamp holder with lamp & reflector; smoke stand; old parlor table with metal/glass ball feet; local advertising; old globe; old doll; doll trunk & chest; 4 vintage quilts; fancywork; old hats; old Lennox Torrid Zone Furnace.

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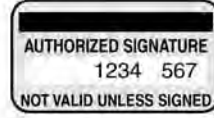
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Hesston's 100,000th windrower to roll off production line in March

Hesston by Massey Ferguson, the industry's leading hay equipment brand of AGCO Corporation — who introduced the self-propelled windrower to the agricultural harvesting world more than 60 years ago — will complete the production of its 100,000th windrower in March, 2016 in Hesston. The 70-year-old Hesston by Massey Ferguson® brand is a leading manufacturer of agricultural machinery, most famous for its high quality haymaking equipment since 1947. The landmark achievement will be celebrated in Hesston on Tuesday, March 29, 2016.

"When Hesston's founder, Lyle Yost, introduced the first self-propelled windrower back in 1955, he not only shared this unique invention but he would ultimately be a leader in the revolution of the hay business," explained Kyle Kitt, marketing manager for hay cutting, preparation and forage at AGCO. "Over the course of the last 60 years, our skilled engineers have worked to innovate and improve upon this harvesting machine, such as with the recent addition of rear-wheel steering, known as RearSteer. This is our effort to listen and respond to the

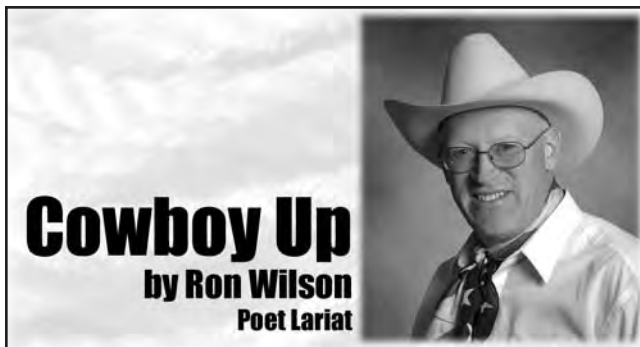
needs of farmers not just here in North America, but across the world."

The 100,000th windrower is a vast improvement from the first model of 1955. Today's WR9800 Series of self-propelled windrowers are fuel-efficient and offer superior operator convenience. The WR9800 Series are powered by reliable AGCO Power™ engines, led by the AP66-4F, a 6.6-liter engine in the WR9870. This model is ideal for Hesston's disc header, and offers 225 horsepower and the muscle to operate in heavy crop conditions such as winter forage, wet silage hay and hilly or rough terrain. The WR9860 is designed to perform toe-to-toe with any six-cylinder windrower with its AP49-4F — a 4.9L four-cylinder QuadBoost™ engine — which boasts 195 HP and is an increase over the previous model. This additional power provides a higher field speed of 17.5 mph, plus a maximum road speed of 24.5 mph for quicker moves between fields, when equipped with RearSteer.

If time and change shaped Hesston over the course of its 70-year history, innovation has defined it. "Hesston is committed to creating machinery that brings added value to the

agriculture industry by delivering higher Relative Feed Value and better quality small grains," Kitt said. As a result of this innovation, its team of engineers has been enhancing the windrower since it was introduced. Whether it be the addition of hydrostatic power in 1967 (renamed Hydro-Static 600), or the addition of RearSteer in 2016, the Hesston Windrower continues to be a leader. In 1955, the first commercially available Hesston Windrower was sold and in 1956, it came off the production line — a self-propelled windrower known as the Model 100. A groundbreaking advancement in the agricultural harvesting business, the Model 100 provided much greater versatility when harvesting both hay and grain crops and brought a new level of maneuverability.

"Today's Hesston WR9800 Series windrowers have seen such success in allowing hay and grain producers to develop quality end-product faster and more efficiently with an enhanced level of precision," continued Kitt. "After 70 years of making innovative farm equipment, Hesston is proud to still lead the industry."



Barn Wars

We took the kids to see the new *Star Wars* movie. I don't know if they enjoyed it, but I sure did.

However, the *Star Wars* movie I liked the best was the original which we saw many years ago. In looking back, it seems to me that *Star Wars* was just a western movie dressed up in sci-fi clothes. Think about it. There's a good guy who wins in the end, a bad guy (Darth Vader) in a black hat, a pretty girl in peril, and lots of shooting and riding. The only difference is that these space cowboys were riding rocket ships instead of horses (see the following poem).

Speaking of horses, I also recently had the chance to visit an outstanding museum exhibit titled *The Horse*. It was displayed at the Museum at Prairiefire in Overland Park, as discussed in my last column. The museum is outstanding and the *Horse*

exhibit was phenomenal. It came from the American Museum of Natural History in New York. That exhibit has ended and will soon be replaced by a different one, but here are some highlights.

The exhibit traced the development of the horse from prehistoric times to today. A diorama depicted ancestors of the horse on the Great Plains ten million years ago. Another section talked about how horses and humans influenced each other. For example, some horses were bred to become powerful draft horses weighing more than a ton, and at the other extreme, Shetland ponies were bred to become small so as to be able to work underground in coal mines in the 1800s (No wonder my Shetland was ornery).

The exhibit included both ancient artifacts and modern high-tech interac-

tivity. For example, a high-definition projection of a horse in motion showed the horse's beauty, grace and strength. Another display let the viewer push a button and see inside an image of a moving, life-size horse to learn about the bone structure and more.

Other videos showed modern human-horse interactions, such as therapeutic riding, a mounted police officer in New York, and a teenage barrel racer. Artifacts included the 1948 Triple Crown trophy for Citation and American Royal posters to provide a Kansas City flavor.

Experienced riders know to watch the movement of a horse's ears for behavioral cues. As evidence, one display pointed out that a human ear has three muscles in it while the horse ear has ten muscles. It also said that the entire skin of a horse is as sensitive as the skin on a human fingertip.

For horse lovers, this exhibit was outstanding. Ellen Futter, president of the American Museum of Natural History which provided the exhibit, said the following: "Other than humans themselves, the horse is perhaps the single most important species in human history."

Wow. And remember, horses even made it in the movies.

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Grass, Soil, and Hope: Managing carbon for a sustainable planet

By Tom Parker

Courtney White and Gail Fuller were talking the same talk but they were coming at it from different backgrounds and different geographical directions, so it was understandable that there should be some minor differences of opinion. That it centered on the sequential order of three little words was all the more remarkable considering the enormous scope of their discussions—the sustainability of the human race from both local and global perspectives.

Grass, Soil and Hope: Regenerative Solutions For Changing Times, the theme of the 2016 Winter Grazing Conference held on Jan. 16 at the Ambassador Hotel in Salina, took its name from White's monumental book, "Grass, Soil, Hope: A Journey Through Carbon Country." In it, White chronicled his transition from Sierra Club activist to New Mexico rancher, co-founder of the Quivira Coalition and author of several books on regenerative solutions for solving environmental problems associated with livestock and food production through progressive management and relationship building. A third speaker, Dale Strickler, a former agronomy instructor at Concordia's Cloud County Community College and now cover crop and forage specialist, followed with a presentation on livestock management and cover crops.

Fuller, a Kansas farmer from rural Emporia who practices holistic management techniques designed to maximize soil regeneration, suggested that the theme's wording was out of order.

"If I had my way," he said, "this would be 'Soil, Grass and Hope.' You have to have soil before you can have grass. That's the one thing we've overlooked the last 60 years. The whole emphasis has to be on soil."

Whichever order the words were placed in, the two speakers agreed that without soil, climate change will accelerate even as food production grinds to a halt, and that solutions would have to come from those most dependent upon it—ranchers and farmers—and not government agencies, environmental organizations, politicians, lawyers or lobbyists, whom White classified as "the conflict industry."

"We don't need more solutions," White said. "We already have the solutions, and for the most part they're cost-effective and highly efficient. We need to find common ground, people who are willing to work together to get ecological health back into the system." White called those people the "radical center" who, in lieu of lawsuits or protests, quietly come together to solve problems pragmatically.

Most importantly, they argued, land use stewards need to have a better understanding of carbon and the carbon cycle and how it impacts soil health as well as climate change.

In simple terms, the carbon cycle is the process where carbon in the atmosphere goes into plants through photosynthesis and passes into the soil where it decomposes and rises back into the atmosphere. "The

carbon cycle is one of the most important cycles on the planet," White said. "Carbon is who we are."

Fuller agreed. "We have to fix the carbon cycle first," he said. Intensive plowing, deforestation, the burning of fossil fuels and other human activities have contributed to atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations that are higher today than at any time over the last half-million years. "We like to blame Mother Nature—it's too hot, too cold, too wet, too dry—but man has affected that by burning carbon and the degradation of the soil. We can argue about climate change, but I can tell you that in my time here on earth the weather has changed. Our storms are getting bigger and meaner, and that includes drought. The Dust Bowl wasn't caused by drought. Man caused the Dust Bowl by plowing all those acres of prairie and releasing all that carbon into the atmosphere."

And yet, in what seems like a contradiction, carbon is our best friend, Fuller said. Mitigating climate change will require land management practices that maximize the amount of carbon stored in plants and the soil through a process known as carbon sequestration, such as no-till farming, wetland management, reforestation and rangeland management. That the process can be sped up through some of the very land use practices that critics blame for climate change is something that has so far eluded the general public, the majority of livestock and food producers, and the purview of agencies responsible for environmental interests.

It has also generated controversy. When Bill Zeedyk engineered a simple, low-cost method for restoring eroded stream channels in the Southwest through a process he called "induced meandering," the Corps of Engineers fought the practice as being unscientific and without merit. Zeedyk, co-owner of Zeedyk Ecological Consulting, has more than 280 completed projects to date, and now, after lengthy dispute, has the Corps of Engineers' approval.

Part of his success lies in understanding the natural processes that create healthy environments, and trying to find solutions using those same processes, White said. For small creeks and watersheds, Zeedyk says, you have to think like a creek.

Thinking like a creek might sound simplistic, but it denotes respect and comprehension of natural processes that are critical to successful regeneration. Unfortunately, protecting the status quo and entrenched agencies and services present some of the largest hurdles facing environmental protection.

"Trying to change minds is harder than just putting rocks in a creek," White said.

Fuller shared a favorite quote from Henry Ford that illustrated that concept: "Whether you think you can or think you can't, you're right."

"The single largest limiting factor is the human mind," Fuller added.

Ultimately, the single

largest limiting factor of ecological health is the amount of carbon in the soil. Fuller showed a series of slides depicting cutouts of soil types from a natural prairie ecosystem, the jungle and a cornfield. The first two showed deep roots branching down through dark, loamy soil; in the third slide, roots barely penetrated into a colorless clay.

"In the cornfield, there's almost nothing there," he said. "The system is dead."

Restoring it to health requires a shift from a monocultural system to one of diversity, Fuller said, and it starts with livestock.

"Livestock is a big part of building healthy soil," he said. "But we need to feed the below-ground livestock as well as the above-ground livestock. The below-ground livestock drives the bus."

In other words, micro-organisms. Research has shown that one square meter of healthy soil contains one vertebrate, 100 snails and slugs, 3,000 earthworms, 5,000 insects, 10,000 rotifers and tardigrades, 50,000 springtails, 100,000 mites, five million nematodes, one billion protozoa and so much mycorrhizal fungi that the numbers were uncountable, Fuller said. Instead, they were measured in length-miles and miles of them within that square meter of soil.

Pesticides have largely eradicated much of those micro-organisms in the soil,

he said. For every insect that selective pesticides target there are 1,700 other species that are either predators to the target species or beneficial. Earthworms are particularly affected by the use of pesticides. "Earthworms are the canary in the coal mine of the soil," Fuller said. "If your agronomist tells you that pesticides are selective, you need to find another agronomist."

Planting multiple species of cover crops adds more carbon to the soil through photosynthesis, he said. Diversity is also important in the number of species of wildlife and livestock. Fuller, who once only raised cattle, now raises cows, chickens, pigs, sheep and bees. The animals graze year-round and calving is done in April, in sync with nature. In fact, every aspect of his operation is engineered to mimic nature's circadian rhythms.

In return, the soil has rebounded so rapidly that it contradicts everything we've been told, he said.

"For years we've been told that it takes thousands of year to grow an inch of topsoil," Fuller said. "Recent studies have shown that it doesn't take a thousand years—it takes a dozen." Other studies prove that in some cases it takes as little as three years.

Restoration projects undertaken in the Southwest through the Quivira Coalition have shown that even

hard-used, overgrazed and over-logged areas can be mitigated in less than 20 years, White said.

Education will be pivotal in moving forward, they both agreed. "The public doesn't fully understand it, and we have an environmental elite that's still largely clueless," White said.

Hope — the third element — was possible even in the face of the vast number of

hurdles, they said.

"Humans like to invent things," White said. "If we turn that power loose, all sorts of good things can happen. We have to find a way through the obstacles."

For more information on upcoming workshops sponsored by Amazing Grazing, call Mary Howell at 785-562-8726 or visit Amazing Grazing's website at AmazingGrazingKansas.com.

Prescribed Burning Workshop planned for February 19

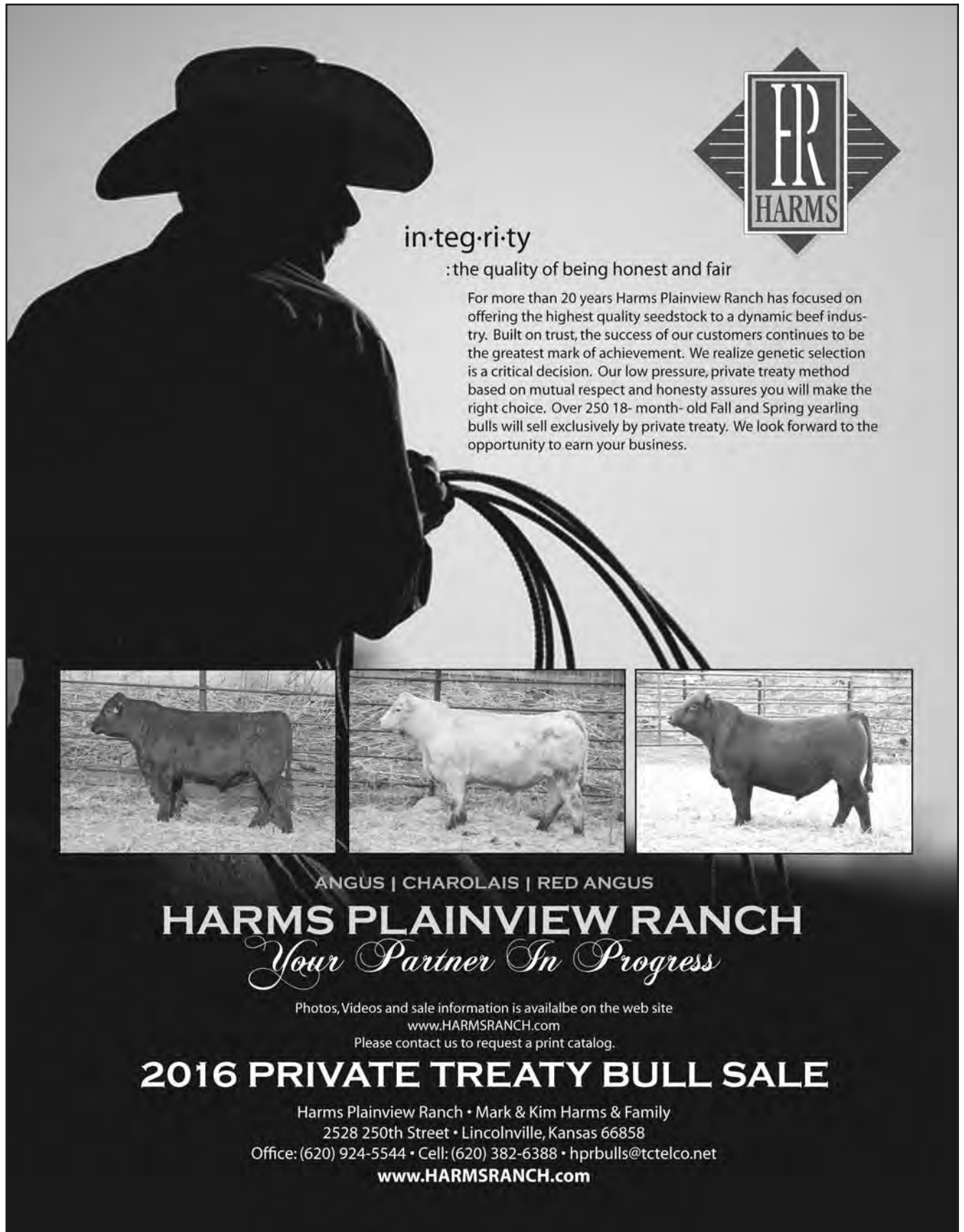
A Prescribed Burning Workshop will be held on Friday, February 19, 2016 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Pottorf Hall, 1710 Avery Avenue, Manhattan. Fire safety, fire behavior, and safe burning techniques will be emphasized.

Topics to be addressed at the workshop include reasons for burning, regulations and permits, liability, weather issues, equipment, fire behavior, safety, and planning and conducting a prescribed range burn. The workshop is designed to prepare participants to begin using prescribed burning, or to update their knowledge and burning skills.

Speakers include: Jason Hartman, Kansas

Forest Service; Dusty Schwant, NRCS; Corey Alderson, Kansas Wildlife and Parks; Kris Craven and Jennifer Bowen, National Weather Service; Doug Schmitt, Riley County Emergency Management; and K-State Research and Extension Range Management specialists.

There is a \$20 workshop registration fee. Lunch and a prescribed burning notebook are included in the registration cost. Reservations are needed by February 12 and may be made online at www.riley.ksu.edu, or by calling the Riley County Extension Office at 785-537-6350.



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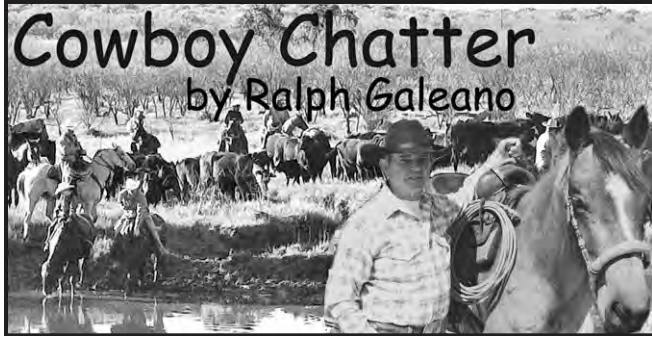
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Cowboy Tales

Reading good books about cowboys is an enjoyable pastime. It takes you away from the modern day hustle and bustle and puts you back in the saddle without even catching a horse. You just start turning pages and go along for the ride. It sure doesn't beat the real thing but it can turn a stormy afternoon into a pleasant respite.

You can ride, rope and cut cows without breaking a sweat. Those shoot-em-up books are okay but I'd rather read about the genuine article, whether it's fact or fiction. If it's fiction, it has to be written by somebody that's been there and cowboyyed to be interesting. There's nothing worse than reading cowboy fiction that was written by a literary

professor that doesn't know the difference between a snaffle bit and a hackamore. It doesn't take long to put those books down. Those folks can't even write about starting a campfire in the brush without making you think, it would be hard to get a fire going that way. I wonder if he's ever tried that before. When it comes to cowboy books, only someone that's lived the life can put the true feel of the experience in the reader's heart. We're lucky to have had some of the best writers of western fiction belong to that elite class that call themselves cowboys. When they write about the country, they write about the country as they know it. Their research comes from their memory of times spent

in the saddle traveling over the grasslands, mountains or deserts.

They describe the freezing cold of snowstorms and searing heat of the deserts with such vividness that you can picture the agony of the ride as if you were in the saddle. Those good writers make it hard to put their books down.

My bookshelves don't have enough of them because I can't ever get tired of reading about the life of the cowboy from the start of the great trail drives to today's work on America's ranches. Its interesting reading and no better way to spend time sitting in a doctor's waiting room for your turn to be beckoned into their inner sanctum. Some of the greatest writers have passed on and we no longer will see new stories come from their desks. I've read some books so many times, I almost know what the next page will bring, but the good ones can be read over and over and still bring great pleasure.

Elmer Kelton, one of the great western writers, passed on in 2009. Elmer was born at Horse Camp on the Five Wells Ranch in Texas and grew up on the McElroy Ranch in Texas.

Texas, where the early trail drives began. Elmer knew the life of the cowboy but realized his dream by writing about them. His books were all about cowboys and he wrote from first-hand knowledge. His award-winning novels about cowboys and the west are some of the best works of fiction that epitomize the cowboy lifestyle. *The Day The Cowboys Quit* and *The Time It Never Rained* are stories only someone with first-hand knowledge of the trade could put down on paper. My favorite Western author is Will James. I've read *Smoky The Cow Horse* five or six times and never tire of reading how James portrayed the lead character's cow horse training methods on the mouse-colored horse he named Smoky. Smoky is a classic western tale of the life of a cowboy and his horse. It is a soul-satisfying story of a cowboy named Clint and his love for his cow pony.

I own a tattered hardcover copy of *Smoky The Cow Horse* that shows a copyright date of 1926. Over the years I've received gifts or bought different copies of James' books and they all have a special place on my bookshelves.

Will James knew horses and cattle. His writing shows his knowledge and love of those animals. You might say he knew both sides of the cattle business too. In 1915, he was convicted of cattle rustling and spent a year in the Nevada State Prison. It was a long year. He had lots of time on his hands, so he spent much of it drawing pictures about the west he loved. James honed his skills as an artist and later illustrated his own books. Released from prison, he gained a new respect for freedom and the wide-open spaces. He joined on to capture mustangs one year and after a hard chase, James and his partners roped a few wild mustangs. While he watched them fight the ropes for their freedom, he must have thought back to his own jail time. He calmly slipped the ropes off the horse's front legs and turned them loose to run free again.

James died in 1942 at the age of 50. Before he left, he wrote somewhere around 20 books that hold high marks in the literature of the West.

Ben K. Green or Doc Green, as he was known, was another authentic cowboy. He headquartered around Weatherford, Texas but trav-

elled the whole state and Mexico buying and selling horses, cattle and mules. Somewhere along the line he began writing about his adventures rounding up wild horses and breaking and training animals for the auction yards.

Ben spun some good yarns and his stories about his adventures rank right up there with Elmer and Will. He wrote many cowboy books and they were all worthwhile. A *Thousand Miles of Mustangin'* is his story of a horseback trip from Weatherford to West Texas and down into Mexico trapping and buying horses. It's a true cowboy adventure story. Some say his stories never happened and that he concocted most of those tales. He was known as a veterinarian around Weatherford but nobody ever saw his diploma. One thing is for certain, whether he had a degree or not and whether he made up those stories or not doesn't matter a hoot because he wrote some of the best cowboy stories I ever read. They sure make that long wait at the doctor's office go by too darn quick.

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

Student photo contest winners receive awards at Kansas State Capitol

Twenty-four students were recognized for their photography at a Kansas Day program at the Kansas State Capitol. The winners of the Happy Birthday, Kansas! Student Photo Contest participated in a program with Gov. Sam Brownback, state legislators, Jennie Chinn with the Kansas Historical Society, and Marearl Denning represent-

ing legislative spouses.

Students who placed first received iPads; students who placed second received Kindles. Denning organized the statewide contest, jointly sponsored by the Historical Society, which invited students in first through 12th grade to photograph their Kansas communities. Photographs from the 24 winners will be on display

in the Kansas State Capitol Visitor Center the afternoon of January 29 through the February 5, and online at kshs.org/18622.

The following students were recognized:

Asher Cook, Kansas Wildflowers, first grade, first place, Olathe

Michaela Ferguson, Cheney Lake in the Winter, first grade, second place,

Cheney

Morgan Nabus, Harvest Time, second grade, first place, Junction City

Spencer Wilson, Long Dirt Road, second grade, second place, South Hutchinson

Reese Hedstrom, Football and Heroes, third grade, first place, Cheney

Kyle Miller, Discovering Kansas Fall, third grade, second place, Derby

Tara Stallbaumer, The

Oregon Trail, fourth grade, first place, Rossville

Abraham Hilbert, Pool Frog, fourth grade, second place, Seneca

Logan Nabus, Conversation in the Woods, fifth grade, first place, Junction City

Johanna Walker, Tricycle, fifth grade, second place, Franklin

Jada Nabus, Making Friends Before Practice, sixth grade, first place,

Junction City

Maurice Hilbert, A Walk in the Woods, sixth grade, second place, Seneca

Paige Schroeder, Evening Hoops and Dreams, seventh grade, first place, Derby

Kiara Knox, Flags and Horses, seventh grade, second place, Clyde

Katie Brady, Dreamy Day, eighth grade, first place, Wakefield

Rylee Boyd, I Walk a Lonely Road, eighth grade, second place, Berryton

Samantha Wilson, Country Speed Limit Sign, ninth grade, first place, Holton

Michaela Falley, One Room School House, ninth grade, second place, Topeka

Gracie Rolls, Evening Happiness, 10th grade, first place, Columbus

Kaliana Osborne, Sun Shining Through, 10th grade, second place, Concordia

Cameron Birney, Giddyup, 11th grade, first place, Bucklin

Ashleigh Carrillo, Friday Night Victory, 11th grade, second place, Kingsdown

Sydney Myers, Connecting on a Personal Level, 12th grade, first place, Topeka

Briana Yokum, Flowers, 12th grade, second place, Humboldt

Nearly 300 entries were received for the contest this year. Happy Birthday, Kansas! was made possible by these sponsors:

Gold: \$500: AT&T Services; Rep. Steve Alford and Peggy Alford; Bukaty Companies; Senator Jim Denning and Marearl Denning; Kansas-Oklahoma Conference, United Church of Christ; Sen. Jeff Melcher and Kris Melcher; Sen. Larry Powell and Myrna Powell; Reach Out Kansas, Inc.; Smithyman & Zakoura, Chartered; Sunflower Health Plan; Silver: \$200: Amerigroup; Representative Barbara Ballard; Representative Rob Bruchman; Representative Travis Couture-Lovelady; Kathy and Whitney Damron; Ron and Julie Hein; Rep. Charles Macheers and Diane Macheers; Rep. Scott Schwab; Sen. Rick Wilborn.

Trauernicht Simmentals 41st Annual PRODUCTION SALE 2016

94 Lots Will Sell! • February 21st • 12:00 Noon Sharp!
Beatrice 77 Livestock • Beatrice, Nebraska

 Purebred SM LHT Making Tracks 03C W/C Wide Track x SVF Steel Force LOT 1	 Purebred SM JZ Mr Shocking Force 01C STF Shocking Dream x SVF/NJC Built Right LOT 8
 1/2 SM 1/2 AN LHT Mr United 57C W/C United x OCC Legend 616L LOT 20	 3/4 SM 1/4 AN LHT Mr Upgrade 43C Mr NLC Upgrade x OCC Legend 616L LOT 16
 1/2 SM 1/2 AN LHT Mr Conquest 255B HXC Conquest 4405P x CNS Dream On LOT 65	 1/2 SM 1/2 AN LHT Mr Wide Track 289B W/C Wide Track x TC Franchise 360 LOT 72

Complete ultrasound data will be available on bulls selling.

BID ONLINE AT
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MACHINERY AUCTION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19 — 9:00 AM
AUCTION LOCATION: 1871 Limestone Road
CLAY CENTER, KANSAS

TRACTOR: 2004 JD 6715 MFD tractor, new 18.4 x 38 Michelin rear tires, 3 hydraulic outlets, joystick for loader, With JD 740 quick attach loader w/quick attach 7 ft. bucket, 5363 total hrs. on tractor, rear wiper on cab, AC & heat, quick attach 3 pt. coupler, 500 lb. rear inside weights, very clean, and ready to go.

TILLAGE EQUIP.: Glenco 30 ft. field conditioner w/ 2 bar coil tine harrow attachment; 30 ft. Wil-Rich field cultivator, w/ spike tooth harrow attachment; Field Conditioner: Noble 30 ft. Danish tine field conditioner w/ spike tooth harrow attachment; Chisels: 22 ft. Sunflower chisel w/ spike tooth harrow attachment; 3 pt. Krause Chisel, 11 shank; V Plows: JD 450, 16 ft. V-plow; Plows: White 549 semi mount steerable, plow, 5 x 16 with all coulters, very good; 3 pt. single lister plow.

ROTARY MOWER: Land Pride RCP 3596 8 ft. rotary mower.

BLADES: 8' rear blade Fast hitch.

LIVESTOCK/HAY EQUIPMENT: (13) portable corral panels 12 ft. long; (2) horse big round bale feeders. Numerous rolls of barb wire; Wire mesh panels; Some smooth wire rolls and numerous other livestock equipment.

LUMBER AND TIN: (73) sheets of 10 ft. corrugated used tin; (38) sheets 8 ft. to 12 ft. w/ some rust at the bottom, angle cut, corrugated tin; (38) 9 ft. roof sheets, corrugated tin; (45) roof sheets, corrugated, 12 ft. long; (25) 8 ft., 2inch corrugated tin; (8) wall sheets, corrugated tin, 7 ft. long; (16) 8 ft. wall sheets, corrugated tin; (8) 9 ft. sheets, wall corrugated tin; (18) channel drain 10 ft long, 36 inch wide, tin; Lumber: (107) 2 x 4 mostly 9 ft. or longer; (50) 2x6's 36 are 15 ft. long and all over 10 ft. long.

MISC: Wheeltronic Inc. Space saver 9000, Drive-on Lift, 9,000 lbs., 2 post with pump and controls.

SHOP ITEMS/TOOLS.: (2) Lincoln 12V battery operated grease guns with carry cases.

HAY: Big round bales of Sedan, Brome hay and prairie hay all big round bales.

TERMS & CONDITIONS: Forms of Payment accepted: Cash, Check w/ proper ID. All items must be paid for prior to removal. Statements made day of Auction take precedence over printed material. Not responsible for any accidents or lost items. Mugler Auction Services LLC is agents only. Meal served.

Call Harold Mugler at 785-632-4994 or 785-632-3994 for more information.

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