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Gary & Ruth Ann Barker



James & Terri DeGeer



Monte & Donneta Felbush



Merle & Jean Kaiser



James & Eilene Minnix



Mark & Debra Tipton

Ninetieth class of Kansas Master Farmers, Master Farm Homemakers honored

Six couples have been honored as the 2016 Kansas Master Farmers and Master Farm Homemakers in recognition of their leadership in agriculture, environmental stewardship and service to their communities. They were feted at a banquet March 10 at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in Manhattan.

The statewide award program is in its 90th year and is sponsored by K-State Research and Extension and *Kansas Farmer* magazine.

The honorees for Class of 2016 are:

Gary & Ruth Ann Barker – Pratt County

Children: Son Matthew (daughter-in-law Amy, granddaughter Katherine); son Bryce (daughter-in-law Shannon, grandson Benjamin).

The Barkers' operation grows wheat, grain sorghum, corn, alfalfa, and oats as well as raising beef cattle. Their farm has planted wheat test plots for Pratt County Research and Extension. They have been farming rented land from families in the area for more than 40 years. The Barkers rely on crop consultants and their local K-State Research and Extension agent to stay current on issues and maintain their successful farming practices.

Gary Barker graduated from Pratt High School before earning his Associate of Science degree at Pratt Community College. He continued his education at Kansas State University with a degree in agricultural eco-

nomics.

Gary has served as the superintendent of the Pratt County Fair for more than 30 years. He has been a member of the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers, Pratt County Kansas State University Alumni Association, and Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Currently, he is part of the Cairo Co-op Board of Directors, Pratt County Hospital Board, and the board clerk for Township 12.

Gary and his wife, Ruth Ann, serve their community by being trustees, administrative board members, Bible school teachers, and youth leaders at their local Methodist church. They both have served as project leaders and community leaders in local 4-H clubs.

After graduating from Skyline School, Ruth Ann attended Pratt Community College and Kansas State University. She taught elementary education at Cunningham and Skyline. During that time, Ruth Ann held several offices in the Kansas National Education Association. She has volunteered with Farm Bureau educational programs and Skyline library, and was a member of the Pratt Regional Hospital Auxiliary.

James & Terri DeGeer – Neosho County

Children: Daughters Melissa and Staci

The DeGeers operate a registered Gelbvieh operation and farm grass hay. They sell bulls and heifers to other seed stock producers, as well as feed out steers for custom locker beef sales. Their ranch is a part of the Kansas Sunflower Supreme Heifer program and hosts livestock judging workouts on their farm. The DeGeers stay current on industry topics by attending numerous seminars sponsored by Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Livestock Association, and K-State Research and Extension.

James DeGeer graduated from Medicine Lodge High School and earned a bachelor's degree in animal science and industry from Kansas State University.

James is a member of the Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Gelbvieh Association, Kansas Livestock Association, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, and Cha-

nute Chapter of Kiwanis. He has served as the county fair beef superintendent.

James and his wife, Terri, are active volunteers in their local 4-H program by serving as community leaders and helping youth with their beef projects. They are members of the Chanute First United Methodist Church where they have served on multiple committees and in leadership positions. The Kansas Farm Bureau has awarded the District 3 Farm Family of the Year to their family.

Terri graduated from Kansas State University with a bachelor's degree in music education. She received her master's from Wichita State University in counseling. Terri has served as the region president and secretary for the Kansas Counselor Association. She keeps the financial records for their ranch.

As fourth-generation seed stock producers, the DeGeers realize the importance of their role: "Although we work hard to make a living and raise quality cattle, our impact on the lives of others and promoting agriculture is just as important."

Monte & Donneta Felbush – Dickinson County

Children: Son Jason (daughter-in-law Maria, grandchildren Alegra, Gabe and Josie); daughter Marci; daughter Shawnee (son-in-law Chris, grandson Hudson); son Levi (daughter-in-law Kristen, grandchildren Autumn and Dean)

The Felbushes farm wheat, sorghum, soybeans, silage, alfalfa, and grass hay, and own a beef herd. The sorghum they grow is prepared into packing pellets by a local businessman. To ensure their farming practices are efficient, the Felbushes use a computer program developed by their son. The program allows them to formulate a daily plan to meet their business goals.

After graduating from Chapman High School, Monte Felbush earned an agri-business degree from Cloud Community College. He is a member of the Kansas Livestock Association, Abilene Co-op Board, and served as the Dickinson County Cattlemen's Association Director.

Donneta Felbush graduated from Abilene High School and continued her education at Kansas State University.

She graduated with a degree in elementary education. Donneta taught second graders and was a substitute teacher. On the farm, she has been involved with keeping financial records.

Monte and Donneta are active in their local church community. They have served as youth group leaders and helped plan a mission trip to Mexico. Their farm sponsors the American Royal, hosted Angus Day, and held farm tours for international students. Monte and Donneta give back to their community by volunteering at the Salina Rescue Mission and Mayor's Prayer Breakfast and Luncheon.

Merle & Jean Kaiser – Miami County

Children: Daughter Katherine; son Kelly

On their farm near Paola, the Kaiser family grows corn, soybeans, silage, and grass hay. Originally their cattle operation was dairy but switched to a beef production. Their operation converts cooking oil to biodiesel as part of a value-added operation to the farm. They also do custom harvesting for area neighbors. To stay current on issues and learn new ideas, the Kaisers read articles, research possible investments, and attend workshops hosted by K-State Research and Extension.

Merle Kaiser is a graduate of Paola High School and continued his education at Kansas State University, studying dairy production.

Merle has been part of the Kansas Jaycees, Miami County Fair Board, Miami County Extension Council Executive Board, Miami County Conservation District Board, and the Kansas Farm Management Association. He has been a chairman for the USDA Farm Service Agency in the Miami and Johnson county areas.

Both Merle and Jean strongly support the FFA program in Miami County. All of their children were members of the FFA program. They have hosted district land judging contests on their farm. Today, they continue to give back by serving as members of the Paola FFA Alumni Association.

Jean graduated from Paola High School and took banking courses from Johnson County Community College. She has been a commu-

nity leader and foods project leader for the Busy Beavers 4-H Club. Jean volunteers with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, Relay for Life, and the Miami County Cancer Foundation.

The fourth-generation farm family realizes their responsibility: "We feel that our most important job is to promote, preserve, and protect the land for our children, grandchildren, and future generations."

James & Eilene Minnix – Scott County

Children: Daughter Kathryn (son-in-law Chris); son Carl (daughter-in-law Lauren); son Luke.

The Minnixes farm wheat, sorghum, and corn, and manage a beef operation in western Kansas. They have been members of U.S. Premium Beef since its beginning. Their farm also participates in the Conservation Stewardship Program. Recently, the Minnixes have been producing food-grade quality sorghum that is used to produce gluten-free products at Nu Life Market.

James Minnix graduated from Scott Community High School. He earned a master's degree from Kansas State University in business administration. To further his education and keep current on issues, James attends Extension topic meetings, reads magazine articles, and researches new technology in the farming industry.

James serves as a member of the American Quarter Horse Association, Kansas Livestock Association, Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association, and the Regional Juvenile Detention Board. He is a founding member of the Scott Community Foundation. For the past 22 years, James has served as a county commissioner.

James and his wife, Eilene, serve as 4-H community and project leaders. Their family has hosted youth at their home through the International 4-H Youth Exchange. Both James and Eilene are lifetime members of the Prairie View Church of the Brethren and serve on the Scott County Arts Council.

Eilene is a graduate of Hoxie High School and continued her education at Cowley Community College and University of Tulsa. Eilene received her Doctor of Vet-

erinary Medicine from Oklahoma State University. She is a member of the Kansas Cattlewomen, American Association of Bovine Practitioners, and a board member for the William Carpenter 4-H Foundation.

Mark & Debra Tipton – Republic County

Children: Daughter Lauren (son-in-law Max, grandson Cooper); Sons Colin and Christian.

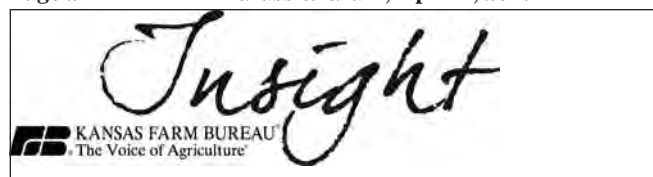
The Tiptons grow sorghum, corn, soybeans, alfalfa, and grass hay, and own a beef cattle operation near the Kansas-Nebraska border. A large part of the family's contribution to agriculture has been participating in crop variety test plots. Seed dealers, elevators, and crop consultants have used the data collected from these projects. Every year the farm hosts a crop tour for 25 to 40 area producers to learn information on wheat diseases, insects, soil management, and sustainable farming practices.

Mark Tipton graduated from Southeast Community College in Milford, Nebraska, with his Associate in Auto Mechanic Technology. Upon graduation, he started his own automotive shop. After marrying Deb, Mark was slowly introduced to farming and started Tipton Grain and Cattle.

Mark is a member of the Hubbell (Neb.) Lions Club and Hubbell Farmer's Elevator Board. He sponsors many Republic County High School activities and recently sponsored a band trip to Arizona.

The Tiptons serve their community as members of the St. George Catholic Church and East Elementary Site Council. Within the 4-H program, Mark and Deb serve as project and community leaders.

After graduating from Belleville High School, Deb received her master's degree in speech pathology from Kansas State University. She worked at the Learning Cooperative of North Central Kansas until retirement. Currently, she works on the family farm and substitute teaches in the Cloud/Republic Infant Toddler Program, where she'd served as the department chair on its Autism and Assistive Technology team.



After the Fire

By John Schlageck,
Kansas Farm Bureau

I know the feeling of watching the sky turn black, the acrid smell, seeing the smoke blanket the landscape and wondering, why?

Those farmers and ranchers who continue to pick up the pieces of their broken lives know this feeling. They lived to tell about the wildfires that exploded March 6 and swept through an estimated 1.5 million acres in Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Texas. For them the recovery has just begun.

"A lot of people say it looks like Mars - desolate," according to veteran farmer/stockman Jim Harden, Clark County. "I've never been to Mars, but I can tell you this countryside is barren - com-

pletely burnt up as far as the eye can see."

The only real color in this southwestern Kansas county - other than black - is the green wheat fields. Because of the dry weather, they don't look too green either.

"What we really need now is a slow, soaking rain of about two inches throughout a two-day period," Harden says. "Heck, I'd even take a nice snow if it would lay flat and not blow off."

Winds clocked at 76 miles per hour fueled the grass fires that destroyed more than 461,000 acres in Clark County. Dozens of farm and ranch families lost their homes, outbuildings and livestock. Countless wildlife fell prey to the fiery devasta-

tion including dead and severely injured deer, coyotes and jackrabbits.

Harden, who farms with his brothers, consider themselves extremely fortunate. Their losses were small. A few head of stocker cattle, approximately 750 acres of grass, ten miles of fence and the equipment they tore up fighting the fires and helping hard-hit neighbors.

Once local firemen and volunteers contained the fires, help began pouring in. Truckloads of hay arrive daily along with fencing supplies. Fence-building crews are beginning to tackle the task of replacing miles and miles of damaged posts and wire.

Harden says a group of FFA youngsters from Saint Francis helped clean up his burned out fence posts.

"If we can get the fences rebuilt, that will make a big difference," the Clark County stockman says. "I'm hopeful many of us will weather this tragedy."

The outpouring of those

wanting to help has been overwhelming. Friends helping friends. Neighbors helping neighbors. Everyone in the community and from across the country pitching in.

"It's this kind of spirit and selflessness that convinces me Clark County and this region of our state will recover," Harden says. "We appreciate all the help we've received."

While Harden doesn't know if there will be federal money to help the firefighters, he encourages those who wish to donate to the fire relief effort to consider contributions to rural fire departments in the burned region.

"Our firefighters need good, reliable equipment and training to continue battling wild fires," Harden says. "We'll need them to fight fires in the future. Believe me, this isn't the last fire out here."

Various programs are available to help those recovering from the devas-

tating fires. Farmers and ranchers should contact their local service centers for more details.

For those who wish to donate money, Kansas Farm Bureau encourages people to contact the Kansas Livestock Association at 785-273-5115. Checks can be mailed to the Kansas Livestock Foundation at 6031 SW 37th St., Topeka, KS 66614. "Fire relief fund" should be written in the memo line.

Cash donations can be made through the Kansas Livestock Foundation (KLF), KLA's charitable arm, by going to www.kla.org/donationform.aspx

Those who were impacted by the fires are encouraged to seek help via the web page www.kfb.org/fire-relief.

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.

Kansas cattle on feed up 2 percent

Kansas feedlots, with capacities of 1,000 or more head, contained 2.21 million cattle on feed on March 1, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. This inventory was up 2 percent from last year. Placements during February totaled 380,000 head, up 1 percent from 2016. Fed cattle marketings for the month of February totaled 370,000 head, up 7 percent from last year. Other disappearance during February totaled 10,000 head, unchanged from last year.

ABC News to face trial over

LFTB comments

ABC News will finally head to court five years after a lawsuit was filed against the media company by Beef Products, Inc. (BPI) over negative false comments repeatedly broadcast by ABC about lean finely textured beef (LFTB), while also popularizing the reference term "pink slime." The suit was brought based on the comments made by Diane Sawyer and Jim Avila; however, South Dakota District Judge Cheryl Gering dropped Sawyer from the suit, and she will not face questioning.

Of the lawsuit, Gering said, "A jury could determine that there is clear and convincing evidence that ABC Broadcasting and Mr. Avila were reckless, that defendants had obvious reason to doubt the veracity of informants, and that they engaged in purposeful avoidance of the truth."

To learn more about the case, visit <http://tinyurl.com/2017-03-17-ABC>.



Occasionally, you have something happen to you that makes you stop and think, "Wow, that was cool." Something that comes out of the blue and could not have been predicted or a story that is so good you could not have made it up. That very thing happened to us, most specifically, Isaac, this past week.

Let me set the stage. We decided after nine years of sheep production that we finally had enough lambs and more importantly, enough good lambs to host an open house at our farm and sell a selection of this year's lamb crop. It was kind of a nerve-racking ordeal because you are not sure how many people (if any) will show up. I decided we would keep this year's affair a low-budget operation and see how it went. The only money we spent was for a new white board to keep track of bids and sales and a batch of Jennifer's soon-to-be famous monster cookies.

No, I did not spend a dime advertising the sale, opting to rely on free social media. I started a Facebook page for our farm and posted on several other pages and Craig's List. I went cheap (a strategy that will be reviewed next year). Keep all of this in mind as the story unfolds.

Even with my frugal approach to advertisement we did get some interest in the lambs including one gentleman from Oklahoma who was interested in Isaac's Southdowns. He contacted me via Facebook and we exchanged communications for the better part of two weeks. I told him about the genetics behind Isaac's flock and we planned for transportation if purchases were made. All along I thought it was kind of neat that we had attracted the attention of someone from Oklahoma.

The night before the sale we were making final arrangements and I sent him some more pictures including more information about the bloodlines of the ewe lambs he was interested in. Let me mention a detail about Isaac's Southdowns I had forgotten to include up to this point. Isaac had developed an affinity for Southdown sheep after buying a Southdown whether to show. At the same time the Kansas Sheep Association started its Starter Flock Loan program.

The program allowed for a three-year loan for youth interested in sheep production; KSA would purchase the ewes and give them to them. Since then (and prob-

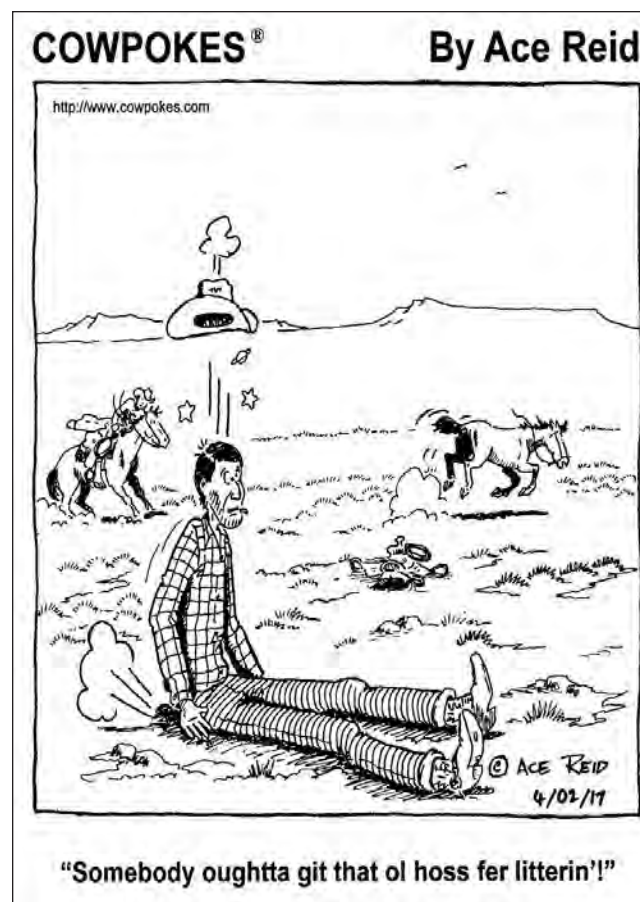
ably because of Isaac) the loan is limited to commercial ewes but Isaac indicated on the application that he wanted Southdowns. KSA purchased the ewes for Isaac and I know Jeff Ebert spent a good bit of time finding those pesky Southdown ewes. I still remember the day when Jeff called to tell Isaac that he had found five ewes in Oklahoma and would be bringing them to us later that week (it was a full-service loan).

Isaac got his ewes and in a few weeks the registration papers came. I remember looking at them but not really knowing much about Southdown breeders. Okay, now that I have added that to the story, fast forward to the night before our first annual open house. I looked through the papers of Isaac's ewes and looked at the two original ewes he still had (after four years) and noticed that the name on the registrations matched the name of the gentleman from Oklahoma inquiring about Isaac's ewe lambs. I am kind of slow but a light came on in my little brain and I made a connection.

The morning of the sale I shared my theory with Isaac and he started communicating with our Oklahoma friend directly. Sure, enough the original ewes had come from him. He knew that they were for a youth in Kansas to start their flock but he had not made the connection. After all, he did have Isaac's name for the papers but KSA had paid him directly for the sheep.

Our new friend and customer from Oklahoma ended up purchasing two ewe lambs through our sale. He and Isaac also planned for him to come look at other ewe lambs and potentially some mature ewes too. He had sold all his Southdown ewes but was now looking to get back into raising them and had randomly come across our sale flyer.

That night I sat down and reflected about what happened. We had a pretty good sale, especially for the first one. However, my mind kept coming back to the set of random circumstances that led to Isaac selling lambs back to the same breeder he had gotten his start from and neither one of them knowing the other until after the sale was complete. Talk about going full circle. I tell you, sometimes you just can't make this stuff up, because the truth is way cooler than fiction.



"Somebody oughtta git that ol hoss fer litterin'!"



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Meinhardt appointed to serve on Equipment Dealers Association Board of Directors

The Equipment Dealers Association (EDA) recently announced the appointment of James B. Meinhardt to serve on its Board of Directors. Mr. Meinhardt will complete the term of Harold Chapman Jr., who resigned because of family matters.

"We are extremely pleased to have someone of Jim's caliber complete Harold's term on the board," said Brian Carpenter, chair of the EDA board. "Harold has been a real asset as we've transitioned to a new governance model. We needed a dealer with experience and an understanding of the issues to complete his term and Jim fulfills every need. I am excited to welcome him to the EDA board and

look forward to serving with him."

"I am excited to have this opportunity to serve EDA and its members," said Meinhardt. "For many years, the board desired to move the association in a new direction and I am thrilled to have this opportunity to participate. As a dealer, I've seen tremendous progress the past three years and I will do my best to make certain we keep the momentum and serve dealers to the best of our ability."

Meinhardt is owner of KanEquip, Inc., a Kansas-based dealership with nine locations. KanEquip focuses on the agriculture and light industrial markets and offers an extensive

line of equipment, including AGCO, Bobcat, Case IH, Great Plains, Kinze, Kubota, Kuhn, Landpride, New Holland and more. Jim currently serves on the board of the Equipment Dealers Foundation. In addition, he previously served on the board of the national association when it was known as the North American Equipment Dealers Association (NAEDA). His service included a term as NAEDA board chair in 2005. In his spare time, Jim enjoys restoring antique farm equipment, cars and toys. His hobby grew into such a noteworthy collection, it is currently housed in a museum. He and his wife Barbara reside in Wamego.



Participants in the Women in Agriculture series received certificates of completion at the final session. Pictured from left to right: (standing) back row: Kelsey Hatesohl, Jessie Uffman, Janece Vathauer, Shelly Kuhlman, Deb Lange, Alison Wohler, Emily Murray, Staci Peters. Middle row: Kannede Stewart, Rebecca Palmer, Katelyn Brockus, Laura Kruse, Becky Rahe, Brenda Danielson, Kate Olson, Kathy Hudson. Left to right (sitting): Teresa Penning, LaMoyn Hardenburger, Marilyn Dunstan, Kathy Richter, Kelly Harries, Melissa Pachta. Not pictured: Rebecca Frerking, Margaret Lutjemeier, Carol Scheer, and Cindy Detrixhe.

Courtesy photo

Women in Agriculture series held in Washington

Twenty-one women from across the area took part in a six-week Women in Agriculture series that concluded March 9th at the KSDS meeting room in Washington. Attendees ranged from those just getting into the industry by inheriting farmland, to those marrying into a farm family, to women who have been active farm operators for many years. A committee of six women from the River Valley Extension District, local Farm Service Agency office, Stewart Seed, and Kansas Farm Bureau planned and implemented the series.

During the six, five-hour sessions, women listened to speakers and completed hands on activities to learn about a variety of farm management topics. At the first session, Mary Mertz of River Creek Farms near Manhattan presented a session on Ag Advocacy and her unique project "Feast of the Field" where she invites guests to an annual meal in their corn field and serves locally produced foods. Meagan Cramer, with Kansas Farm Bureau also presented information on Ag Advocacy. Libby Curry from Extension led the group through the True Colors personality profile. Farm technology was also covered in this session by Rod Stewart. At the second session Travis Green, Great American Insurance Group, presented on crop insurance. Mark Nelson from Kansas Farm Bureau spoke on grain marketing and risk management. Car-

rie Williams of AgMark LLC instructed the class on the global agriculture economy. At the third session, Katelyn Brockus, River Valley Livestock Agent, discussed livestock management. Kelsey Hatesohl, River Valley Horticulture Agent, talked about different areas in Horticulture Production. Emily Allen and Tamie Buckley of the Farm Service Agency discussed their program opportunities. Tom Meek with the Clay County Conservation District talked about different forbs found in this area and how to identify them. For the fourth session participants engaged in hands on training with laptops to learn how to keep farm records with QuickBooks led by Kara Mayer with K-State Research and Extension. Then Justin Wagoner with K-State Research and Extension spoke on farm safety, Stockmanship, and Forage Testing. At the fifth session, the group learned about developing equitable leases and understanding Kansas lease laws, presented by Mykel Taylor from the K-State Agricultural Economics Department. The group also learned about taxes from Derick Bruna from Washington Tax and Accounting.

Members of the group were encouraged to bring their spouse, or other family members involved in their operation, to the final session. Forrest Buhler, staff attorney at Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services, shared information on farm

succession and estate planning with the group. John Forshee, River Valley Extension Director, presented Successful Family Business Transitions, which included 'Twelve Steps to Keep the Family Farming.' To cap off the event the participants were awarded certificates of completion following a social hour and a meal by Vathauer Catering.

Participants not only learned a lot during the sessions, but also developed relationships with others in the ag industry throughout the area. Members on the planning committee for this event were Kim Larson, Katelyn Brockus, Kelsey Hatesohl, Rebecca Frerking, Kannede Stewart, and Rebecca Palmer. The event would not have been successful without the generous assistance from these local sponsors: Agmark LLC, The Citizens National Bank, KS Crossroads RC&D, Ohlde Seed Farms, Washington Tax and Accounting, Blue Valley Insurance Agencies, Animal Health Center, Bruna Implement Company, Washington Vet Clinic, Stewart Seed LLC, and K-State Research and Extension. This farm management series rotates throughout the River Valley Extension District on an annual basis. This area includes; Clay, Cloud, Republic, and Washington Counties. Next year this series will be held in Cloud County. For more information contact a River Valley Extension District office.

Boone honored as distinguished alumna at alma mater

Kristina Boone, communications and agricultural education professor and department head for the Kansas State University College of Agriculture, was among six distinguished alumni honored Monday, Feb. 20, by Texas Tech University's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

The Distinguished Alumni & Outstanding Young Alumni Awards were presented at Texas Tech's McKenzie-Merket Alumni Center in Lubbock, Texas.

The awards honor Texas Tech graduates who have made significant contributions to society and whose accomplishments and careers have brought distinction to the college and to the professions associated with agriculture and natural resources.

Boone graduated cum laude from Texas Tech in 1986 with a B.S. in agricultural communication. While working on her undergraduate degree, she served on the departmental advisory council and College of Agriculture student council. She held local and national offices in the Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow.

"Texas Tech focused on experiential learning and hands-on experiences," Boone said. "I've worked to make that a cornerstone of our program here at Kansas State University."

Boone came to Manhattan in 1995 as an assistant

professor in agricultural communication, was named interim department head in 2002 and became the permanent department head in 2005.

After more than 20 years at K-State, Boone recently

announced she will return to The Ohio State University, where she earned her master's and doctoral degrees. As of April 1, she will serve as the director of the university's Agricultural Technical Institute.

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**This Week's G&G Recipe Contest Winner
 Is LaVerna Hinkle, Manhattan**

LaVerna Hinkle, Manhattan: "Spring is here – so I would like to share this wonderful recipe."

KIWI SUMMER LIMEADE PIE

- 9-inch baked pastry shell
- 6-ounce can frozen limeade concentrate, thawed
- 4 serving size vanilla instant pie & pudding mix
- (2) 8-ounce packages cream cheese, softened
- 3/4 cup powdered sugar
- 3 medium kiwi fruit, peeled, halved lengthwise & sliced
- 6-ounce carton lime yogurt, low fat
- 1 1/2 cups frozen whipped topping, thawed

Whisk together limeade concentrate and vanilla pudding mix. In another bowl beat cream cheese with electric mixer for 30 seconds. Beat in powdered sugar, add limeade mixture, beat well. Transfer 3/4 cup of the mixture to another bowl. Spoon remaining mixture into baked pastry shell. Top with 2 of the kiwi fruit. Beat yogurt into the reserved cream cheese mixture until combined. Fold in whipped topping. Spoon over filling in pastry shell. Cover and chill for 8 to 24 hours. Garnish with remaining kiwi fruit.

Nancy Horne, Alta Vista: "Here is a cookie that you roll in oats before baking. My husband likes the rolled oats on the outside. The second ones I made I rolled in coconut. I like the coconut better."

**JOLLY GOOD
 CHOCOLATE CHIP
 COOKIES**

- 1/2 cup butter
- 6 tablespoons sugar
- 1 1/4 cups flour
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

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- 1/4 cup mini chocolate chips
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- Oats to roll cookies in, about 1/2 cup or less

Lightly grease a cookie sheet. In a large bowl cream together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add the egg and vanilla; stir to blend in. Add the flour and baking soda. Beat well. Add chocolate chips. Shape by hand into little balls; roll in oats. Place them on the prepared cookie sheet and press down slightly. Bake in a 350-degree oven for 15 minutes until golden brown. Remove from the tray while still hot and place on a wire rack to cool.

Margaret Trojan, Beaver Crossing, Nebraska: "Tis the season for rhubarb!"

RHUBARB CAKE

- 1 1/2 cups brown sugar
 - 1 egg
 - 1 cup buttermilk
 - 2/3 cup oil
 - 2 1/2 cups flour
 - 1 teaspoon soda
 - 1 teaspoon salt
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla
 - 1 1/2 cups chopped rhubarb
 - 1/2 cup pecans, chopped
- Topping:**
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
 - 1 tablespoon margarine
 - 1 1/2 tablespoons cinnamon

Mix first eight ingredients. Add rhubarb and nuts. Spread in a greased 9-by-13-inch pan. Mix topping ingredients together. Sprinkle over batter. Bake at 325 degrees for 40 minutes.

Joanne Breault, Wamego: "Easter is the holiday for these candy strawberries. For presentation I use a strawberry basket with green Easter basket grass on the bottom. These are unbelievably good."

- CANDY STRAWBERRIES**
- 1 1/2 cups grated walnuts
 - 1 1/2 cups grated coconut
 - (3) 3-ounce packages strawberry gelatin
 - 14-ounce can sweetened condensed milk
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla
 - 1/3 cup red sanding sugar
 - Green food coloring
 - Slivered almonds for stems

Combine all but sugar, green food coloring and slivered almonds. Work mixture until well mixed. Form into a ball and chill 1 hour. Soak slivered almonds briefly in a little water and green food coloring. Lay out to dry on a paper towel for use later. Shape chilled mixture using 1 tablespoon mixture for each strawberry. Chill again. Roll in red sugar to coat. Insert an almond sliver in each strawberry for stem. Refrigerate in an air-tight container until ready to use. Makes approximately 45.

Barbara Barthol, Olathe: "Delicious."

**GELATIN PUDDING
 PECAN PIE**

- 1 pie shell, homemade or store-bought
- 1 package regular vanilla pudding mix
- 1 cup white karo syrup (have used dark syrup as well; both are good!)
- 3/4 cup evaporated milk
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 cup pecans

Blend pudding mix with syrup; gradually add evaporated milk and egg; stir to blend. Add pecans and pour into shell. Bake at 375 degrees for 40 minutes or until top just begins to crack. Cool 3 hours before cutting.

Millie Conger, Tecumseh: "A good way to use leftover Easter ham. Good for any meal, even breakfast."

- HAM CAKES**
- 1 1/2 cups cold mashed potatoes
 - 1 cup finely chopped cooked ham
 - 3 green onions, finely chopped
 - 1 egg
 - 1 tablespoon dijon mustard
 - 1/2 teaspoon pepper
 - 1/4 teaspoon salt
 - 1 1/4 cups bread crumbs
 - 1/2 cup oil

Stir mashed potatoes, ham, onions, egg, mustard, salt, pepper and 1/2 cups bread crumbs together until combined. Put remaining 1/4 cup crumbs in shallow bowl (you may need a few extra crumbs). Scoop out 1/3 cup of mixture and form into a ball, flatten into a patty. Press both sides of patty into crumbs tapping off any loose crumbs. Makes 8 patties. Heat oil until very hot on medium heat. Fry 2-3 minutes per side. Transfer to paper towels to drain.

Kellee George, Lawrence, submitted the following recipe:

**STRAWBERRY
 COBBLER**

- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups halved strawberries
- 4 ounces cream cheese, cut into small pieces

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Pour butter into a 9-by-13-inch baking dish and tilt to cover bottom. Stir together milk, flour, sugar, baking powder and salt in a small bowl then pour into prepared pan. Arrange berries cut sides down in a single layer in batter. Dot with cream cheese pieces. Bake until top is golden brown and edges are bubbling, 25-30 minutes.

Lydia J. Miller, Westphalia, shares the following recipe:

**RED VELVET
 COOKIES**

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 1/4 cups granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 eggs
- 1 tablespoon liquid red food coloring
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- Powdered sugar

In a large mixing bowl beat butter on medium to high speed for 30 seconds. Add sugar, cocoa, baking powder and salt. Beat until combined scraping sides of bowl occasionally. Beat in eggs, food coloring and vanilla until combined. Beat in as much of the flour as you can with mixer. Stir in any remaining flour. Divide dough in half. Cover; chill 1 hour or until easy to handle. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. On a floured surface roll half of the dough at a time to 1/4-inch thickness. Cut dough using a 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 heart-shape cookie cutter. Place cutouts 1 inch apart on an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 6 to 7 minutes or until edges are firm and bottoms are very light brown. Transfer cookies to wire racks to cool. Sprinkle with powdered sugar using stencils if desired or ice. Makes (46) 2 1/2-inch or (22) 3 1/2-inch cookies.

Cream Cheese Icing:

- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 8-ounce package cream cheese
- 1 stick butter or oleo
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Cream all ingredients together and apply to cookies.

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California Sweet Potatoes ... For Holidays And Every Day



(NAPS) — Here's food for thought: As more and more Americans realize, sweet potatoes can be enjoyed not only during the winter holidays but on other holidays and on a regular old Tuesday night, for that matter.

High in vitamin B6, vitamin A, carotene and potassium, rich in antioxidants, vitamins C and E and a great source of manganese and dietary fiber (almost twice as much fiber as a white potato), sweet potatoes are healthy and nutritious.

Sweet potatoes grown in California, many on small family farms, are especially delicious because California's warm, dry climate and rich, sandy soil grow some of the nation's best sweet potatoes and they are available year round.

Here are a few ways to incorporate tasty California sweet potatoes in dishes for other holidays and anytime.

- Switch up a classic potato gratin recipe and substitute California sweet potatoes for white potatoes. It's a great accompaniment to an Easter ham or lamb or as an easy-to-make side dish to go along with a store-bought rotisserie chicken — making any weeknight meal a little more special.

- When avocado toast starts to feel a little humdrum, forget the bread and pop a 1/4-inch-thick slice of

a California sweet potato into the toaster for five or so minutes, then top with peanut butter and sliced bananas, chocolate hazelnut spread and crushed nuts, cottage cheese and chives or a fried egg with a dash of hot sauce. And if you haven't had your fill of avocado toast, go ahead and smear the toasted sweet potato with mashed or sliced avocado and enjoy the best of both worlds while skipping the gluten — the opportunities are practically endless.

- California sweet potato oven fries are a welcome change to regular old French fries and are super easy to make. Simply cut the sweet potatoes into desired thickness, coat them with olive oil and sprinkle with a little salt, pepper, cayenne, cumin or other favorite spice, arrange on a cookie sheet so they are in a single layer and bake at 425 degrees until done.

- And don't forget the long-popular baked California sweet potato. Just preheat the oven to 400 degrees, pierce the sweet potatoes with a fork, wrap them individually in foil and bake for 45 to 50 minutes or until fork tender. Then the fun begins: Enjoy them with a little salt, pepper and butter or stuff them with bacon and cheddar or sour cream and chives.

For your next brunch, picnic, tailgating party, holiday open house or random Sunday breakfast with family or friends, try adding these delicious muffins to the menu.

Only mildly spicy, the muffins have great texture, flavor and nutrition thanks to mashed sweet potatoes in

the batter. Enjoy them for breakfast, brunch, lunch or dinner — they go great with ham and eggs, green salads, soups, stews and chili.

Sweet Potato Jalapeño Corn Muffins

Makes 20 muffins

- 1 1/2 cups yellow cornmeal
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon ground chipotle chili peppers
- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 4 large eggs
- 1/2 cup melted butter
- 1/2 cup plain yogurt
- 1/3 cup honey
- 2 jalapeños, thinly sliced

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Pierce sweet potatoes, wrap in foil and bake until tender, about 1 hour; set aside to cool. Lower oven to 375 degrees. Coat 20 cups from two 12-cup muffin tins with nonstick spray; set aside. In medium bowl, whisk cornmeal, flour, baking powder, salt, baking soda and chili powder; set aside. Peel skin from sweet potatoes, transfer flesh to large bowl and mash with cream cheese. Whisk in eggs, butter, yogurt and honey. Add cornmeal mixture and half of jalapeños; stir until just combined. Divide batter among prepared muffin cups. Top with remaining jalapeños. Bake until a tester comes out clean, about 25 minutes. Let cool slightly or completely before serving.

Learn More

For further information and recipes about California sweet potatoes, visit www.casweetpotatoes.com



Home and Away

The world among its shelves

By Lou Ann Thomas

My mother was a voracious reader and always had a stack of books nearby. Her love for books and reading was contagious. I don't remember her ever trying to influence me to follow her lead. Instead I quietly watched her enjoy reading and eventually joined her on her weekly visits to the library, where we would both check out big stacks of books. I couldn't wait to dig into mine and would begin reading on the way home.

I read everything I could get my hands on and still love the way books allow me to explore new and exciting things, introduce me to different ideas and people, and stretch my imagination far beyond the boundaries of my Kansas farm.

Libraries now offer a wide range of services, many providing the use of computers, DVD rentals, and resources for anything about which you might want to learn more.

Every time I walk into a library memories of exploring the shelves of books with my mom fill my heart. I feel such appreciation for being re-

mindful of how we shared the adventure of opening the cover of a book not yet read, not knowing where the pages would take us. Even if the book didn't capture our attention, or wasn't what we expected, we still appreciated the opportunity for discovery it provided.

That's one of the best things about a library book. If you don't enjoy it, take it back and get another one. You've lost nothing and have learned a little more about yourself in the process.

I am so grateful to my mother for instilling in me the love of the written word and a deep appreciation for a good library. Where else can you explore new worlds, learn new languages and discover people, places and things with which you might never otherwise cross paths? And where else is all of this free? All you have to do is get a

library card, which then becomes your passport to anywhere in the world, and your ticket to an expansive treasure trove of knowledge and information.

It's always difficult to narrow my choices down to a manageable few books. But I know I can come back to get more at any time. So with several books chosen, I leave with new stories and new adventures in hand, feeling excited for where each tome may take me.

The biggest change in my trips to the library is that I now have to drive myself to and from, so I have to wait to get home before I can begin reading.

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- 1 package yellow cake mix (regular size)
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- 19 to 20 yellow chick Peeps candies
- 1 1/2 cups semisweet chocolate chips (assorted sizes)



Prepare and bake cake mix according to package directions, using two parchment paper-lined and greased 9-inch round baking pans. Cool in pans 10 minutes before removing to wire racks; remove paper. Cool completely. If cake layers have rounded tops, trim with a long serrated knife to make level. Spread frosting between layers and over top and sides of cake. For petals, arrange Peeps around edge of cake, curving slightly and being careful not to separate chicks. For sunflower seeds, arrange chocolate chips in center of cake. Yield: 12 servings. Reprinted from Taste of Home website © 2017 RDA Enthusiast Brands, LLC

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Evaluating corn emergence factors

By Josh Coltrain, Crop Production and Local Foods Agent, Wildcat Extension District

I like to say that we "farm when we can" in southeast Kansas. Mother Nature tends to decide when we can get into fields so when conditions are acceptable, the tractors spring into action. As such, corn planting is progressing rapidly in southeast Kansas. There are some important factors that will decide the success of those plantings.

Soil moisture is one of the more obvious factors. In our area, too much and too little moisture can greatly impact corn success. In many years, excess soil moisture prevents farmers from even starting planting. That is not the case this year. As of writing this, the surface moisture levels are quite dry. However, there is moisture below the surface and rain predicted on the horizon.

Soil temperature is also incredibly important for corn. While there is some debate over the exact essen-

tial temperature, I tend to pay the most attention to the average soil temperature being around 50-55 degrees Fahrenheit. Once again, in many years the soil temperatures have not reached that point as of planting. If that is the case, the seed will simply sit in the soil without germinating. This is not ideal.

However, this year the soil temperature has been ahead of schedule for the most part. In fact, on March 20th at the Parsons Mesonet station, the average two-inch soil temperature was 59.2 degrees Fahrenheit. The average two-inch soil temperature from 2010 to 2016 on March 20th is 48.9 degrees Fahrenheit. Interestingly, the two-inch soil temperature just five days prior (3/15) was 43.4 degrees Fahrenheit which was over six degrees cooler than the average from 2010 to 2016.

While there are other factors that will impact corn emergence, these two are probably the most important. Even emergence is an oft-discussed element of corn success. To research

the impact of even emergence, a small area of corn was planted at the Parsons Research Station on February 27th. It was planted that early in an effort to induce uneven emergence. The plots have been checked daily since one week after planting (March 6).

On March 6th, some of the seed had sprouted. In fact, in all three locations that were checked the seeds had sprouted. Checks in different locations on later dates revealed that not all of the seed had sprouted by 3/6. However, it was not until March 21st that the first seedlings emerged. The cold snap that moved through the area from the 10th to the 16th slowed the progression greatly.

As most producers know, corn is greatly dependent on temperature for growth and development. Growing Degree Days (GDD) is the most common way to estimate corn growth. Corn emergence typically requires 90 to 120 GDD. The Kansas Mesonet website provides a GDD calculator for all Mesonet locations. For the Parsons plot, emergence actually took 178 GDD for

emergence. The previously mentioned cold snap halted the GDD at 94 units which was, apparently, not quite enough GDD for this particular hybrid to emerge.

The goal of inducing uneven emergence is a success. Only a few emerged on the first day and as of writing this, all of the seedlings have not emerged. The ultimate goal of the project is to compare how the date of emergence influences final yield and how side-by-side plants emergence date impacts each other.

The early emergence could cause some potential issues. Since we are taking the plots to yield, if another cold front were to come, these early-emerged plants would be very susceptible to frost/freeze damage.

Hopefully planting is progressing well for producers in southeast Kansas. Stay tuned for the results of the Parsons emergence study. If you have questions or would like more information, please call me at the office (620) 724-8233, or e-mail me at jcoltrain@ksu.edu, or visit the Wildcat Extension District website at www.wildcatdistrict.ksu.edu.

Research funded by United Sorghum Checkoff Program advances sorghum breeding technology

A three-year research collaboration effort between the United Sorghum Checkoff Program and DuPont Pioneer has yielded a major new tool for sorghum improvement.

DuPont Pioneer research scientists, led by Cleve Franks and Tanveer Hussain, discovered two sorghum haploid inducer lines. The first of its kind, these patent-pending inducer lines enable the creation of doubled haploid sorghum, which is the first step to significantly accelerating the sorghum breeding process.

"The development of doubled haploid sorghum capabilities represents a major leap forward in sorghum breeding technology," United Sorghum Checkoff Program CEO Tim Lust said. "This technology provides sorghum breeders with a powerful means of developing higher-yielding sorghum hybrids with the technology our growers need, both in the United States and abroad."

The United Sorghum Checkoff Program funded the Pioneer research as part of a three-year, \$800,220 investment. The research, conducted in Texas, Kansas, Puerto Rico, Mexico and Iowa, leveraged the world-class, global breeding programs of Pioneer.

"The inducer lines discovered by Pioneer will give sorghum breeders the opportunity to create finished inbred parents in a single step," said Franks, sorghum research scientist, DuPont Pioneer. "This could accelerate the breeding process by potentially cutting the time required to create new hybrids in half."

The results and developments from the collaboration will be available for out licensing. As one of the top five cereal crops in the world, sorghum can be grown as a grain, forage or sweet crop. The United States is the world's largest producer of grain sorghum, having produced 597 million bushels in 2015. The United Sorghum Checkoff Program partners with both public and private sorghum breeding entities.

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Assessing your winter wheat after a freeze

By James Gillum, WestBred Regional Commercial Manager for the Central Region

Because of the early warm temperatures, one of the biggest concerns on Kansas wheat growers' minds is spring freeze. Everybody knows that a freeze is coming; the question is, how bad is it going to be? Between growers who planted too early, resulting in too much growth too quickly, to growers who planted later and were met with little to

no precipitation, there are a lot of fields right now that have stand issues. How do growers make the decision on whether to replant or power through the season? As the Technical Product Manager for the Central Region, I've gathered a list of steps growers should take to evaluate their stands and determine their next steps.

1. Test for Freeze Damage

With the current growth stage of the wheat crop in the state, we need to be wary of these late spring freezes. Once wheat has begun to tiller, its tolerance to cold temperatures is lower. If we do experience late spring freeze, this is how you can check for injury.

Knowing the symptoms of spring freeze can help you determine how much your fields have suffered. At the tillering stage, most of the damage from freeze will be evident on the leaves of the plant. Leaves can become twisted and yellowish in color after freezing.

Another way to determine to what extent plants have suffered spring freeze is to remove some sample crowns from the field, place them in a closed plastic bag and leave them in a warm room. If the crown has a brownish appearance, then you should be concerned. Crown tissue that is severely

damaged will quickly turn brown, while healthy tissue will remain white.

Be sure that when you are evaluating the sample crowns, you are looking at the growing point, which is about one inch below the soil. While the exposed portion of the plant may be killed by injury, turning from white to brown, the growing point is partially protected in the soil. During a mild winter, leaves of the plant may stay green, but freezing or plant tissue burn due to the cold has little effect on the final yield.

2. Determine Plant Population

Growers can determine their plant population by doing stand counts. To complete a stand count, growers should observe three feet of a row in various locations throughout their field. Count the number of plants in the three-foot length and find the average of the different counts. Multiply the number by four, then divide by your row width, in inches, to determine the number of plants per square foot.

The desired plant population varies largely based on location and the variety planted. Desired populations are driven primarily by moisture availability but also swing dramatically as you travel from east to west and north to south.

Once you have determined your plant population, you should confer with your local agronomist to determine if you are within the correct range for maximizing your yield potential come harvest.

3. Evaluate Number of Tillers

Stand issues can be overcome if heads per unit are higher than average, because a thinner stand that has a lot of tillers per area can still compensate. Tillers are the ancillary stems that

branch out from the main stem. Some varieties will not tiller profusely, so it is wise to understand the tillering potential of your variety.

To determine the number of tillers, repeat the same process you use to determine plant population, this time counting both the tillers and the main stems. As with plant population, the desired number of tillers varies based on location and available moisture, so consult with an agronomist to ensure you are in the correct range.

4. Make Your Decision

Once you've observed the three conditions above, you will need to decide your next steps.

If freeze damage is in an isolated area or is a relatively small percentage of the field, I usually recommend that my growers do nothing. Let the spring play out.

If freeze damage is uniformly across the field, you may need to apply nitrogen in the spring to stimulate tillering. When plants are severely damaged by freezing temperatures, it could leave open areas where increased weed pressure could become an issue. You should consider making an additional herbicide application to control early-emerging summer weeds like Kochia, Russian thistle, sunflower and Palmer Amaranth.

If large areas are affected, it may make more sense to replant with a spring crop, if your rotation will allow and you have the moisture to do so. It's always good to talk to your agronomists and get their advice. You'll need to understand any herbicide carryover that may damage a replanted crop. Prior to removing a crop, contact your crop insurance company to determine options as well.

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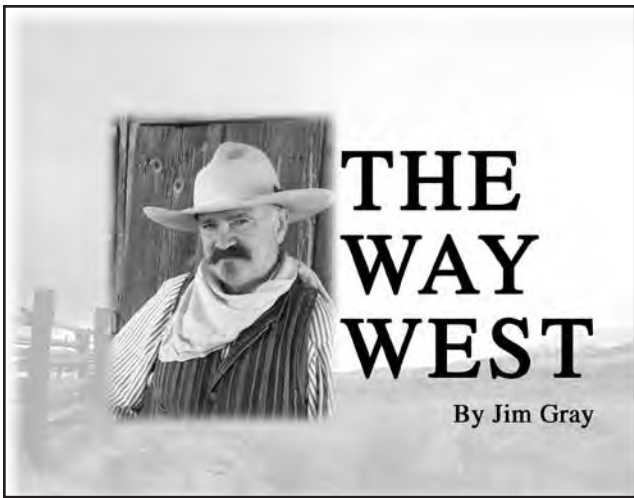
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Beyond Border Strife

Captain Eugene Millett and his brothers, Hiram and Alonzo, returned from the Civil War to the devastation of the family home northeast of San Antonio near Seguin, Texas. Their father had died in 1863 during their absence and thieves had stolen nearly everything. The Millett brothers joined with the neighbors to round up scattered stock that had escaped the raids.

Not only had the farms and ranches of Texas disintegrated from theft and neglect, most of the money that was made during those terrible years was worth-

less Confederate scrip. If they were to survive the best source of wealth for the Millett family would be in cattle. Their conquerors in the north were hungry for beef. Cattle valued at two and three dollars per head could bring ten times as much in Missouri.

Captain Millett and his brothers had grown up idolizing his father and the heroes of the Texas revolution. The boys of Seguin relived the famous battles for independence, playing the hero in mock battles at home and in the schoolyard. Imaginary Indians

were killed in savage fights and horse thieves "hung" for their wicked ways. By his eighteenth birthday Millett had fought Indians for real and had set out on his own, buying Mexican horses, driving them back across the border, and selling them in Texas.

In the early months of the war Eugene had established a relationship with San Antonio cattlemen Ewing Newel and Lindsey Carson. Carson was famously known for his sense of independence and adventure. He and his brother Kit Carson had traveled the far reaches of the American frontier. At the outbreak of the war Carson had traveled overland from California with his family to establish a ranch near San Antonio in support of the Confederacy. Newel and Carson relied on Millett to gather and deliver fifteen hundred head of Texas beef steers to the Confederate government.

Now the war was over and Millett turned again to driving cattle. In 1866, he joined the venerable Col. J. J. Myers and Alexander Ewing to drive a herd of five hundred beeves to Westport, Missouri. Millett bossed the herd. They drove to Talbot's

Ferry on the Red River near the present site of Denison, Texas. The river was swollen from recent rains and the herd balked at crossing. No matter what the drovers did the cattle would not take to the water. The herd of Rev. W. H. Farmer arrived and Captain Millett pulled his herd back from the banks to allow the Farmer herd to give it a try. J. Hargus was with that herd and recalled, "...when we came up with our cattle they crossed the river as if it were a little brook." Millett pushed his cattle at the heels of the Farmer herd and followed across without a problem.

However, troubles were far from over. The operator of the ferry refused to carry anyone over the raging river. The river was three hundred yards wide with very high waves. Some drovers tried to swim their horses across, but only two made it across. Hargus made it on the second attempt after drowning his horse on his first try. On the other side the two "cow-

boys" had their hands full trying to keep six thousand head of cattle together. It was early April and the men were cold and wet, working only in their shirtsleeves. By midnight the others were finally able to cross and come to their relief.

Millett drove on to Baxter Springs, intending to enter Missouri on the Shawnee Trail. The southern Kansas-Missouri border was a treacherous place filled with bands of roaming bushwhackers and jayhawkers unwilling to end their lawless ways following the close of the war. A mob of ruffians met Millett and his drovers at the border and forced the herd to turn back. Unable to reach Westport, the destination was changed. Millett again turned east and entered Missouri along the Arkansas line. It was a rocky, heavily timbered route not suitable for driving cattle. He made it to St. Louis, a major cattle market of the time, but his cattle were in such poor condition he had

to drive them on to Illinois where he peddled them to feeders. Millett realized a small profit for the year. Little did he know that in another year a new market would open. At Abilene buyers and sellers would soon come together to do business beyond the border strife on The Way West.

"The Cowboy," Jim Gray is author of the book *Desperate Seed: Ellsworth Kansas on the Violent Frontier, Executive Director of the National Drovers Hall of Fame*. Contact Kansas Cowboy, P.O. Box 62, Ellsworth, KS 67439. Phone 785-531-2058 or kansascowboy@kans.com

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Linn Post and Pipe was one of the many exhibitors at the Mid America Farm and Ranch Expo in Salina.

Photos by Donna Sullivan

Researchers look for strategies to reduce wheat yield gap

By Hannah Schlapp, Kansas Wheat

Communications Intern

Farmers aim to increase yield and profitability while maintaining stewardship of the land. With farming comes preserving the soil and being cautious in management practices to keep the ground functioning to its full potential. This may

mean farmers change the way they apply certain fertilizers to the soil, as well as other crop production components. Researchers at Kansas State University are coming together to help farmers get a bigger bang for their buck by finding management practices that can increase yields and profitability while still pre-

serving the land. These researchers include Romulo Lollato, wheat and forages production agronomist with K-State Research and Extension; Dorivar Ruiz Diaz, associate professor and nutrient management specialist in agronomy; Gary Cramer, assistant professor in agronomy; and Anserd J. Foster, an assistant professor and Southwest area Extension agronomist. This project is under the direct administration of Brent Jaenisch, a M.S. student working in Lollato's program.

"There are many regions of the world where wheat yields are stagnant. In Kansas, we have had somewhat of an increase in the last 30 years, but it's been at a relatively slow rate," Lollato said. "However, after performing long-term research of the yield potential in the region, we have found that we have an exploitable yield gap that can be economically reduced through management, yield gap being the difference between what we produce now compared to what we could potentially economically produce."

Lollato has previously performed related research that shows a possibility for yields in central Kansas to increase about 10-20%, while still maintaining profitability and stewardship of the land. The next step of the research is to determine exactly which management practices should be improved to accomplish that.

In addition, the research shows that there's approximately a 30-35 bushels per acre yield gap between current yields and the yield potential, largely due to substandard wheat manage-

ment practices. It is important to remember that only a fraction of this yield gap can be economically reduced, as reaching for the full crop's potential is often not economical. Lollato is hoping to develop cutting edge management practices that will help lower the yield gap.

The main concept of this research is to perform intensive management practices on wheat, along with standard management practices to see how yield responds to the two practices. The intensive practices will include enhanced fertilization with nitrogen, chloride and sulfur, along with a change in crop production components including plant population density, fungicide applications and plant growth regulators. The standard management practices will be based on K-State fertility recommendations. The goal of the project is to yield 60 bushels per acre on the standard management practices and 100 bushels per acre on the intensive management practices.

"We have a very low-input control, which is representing our average farmer, and then on the other extreme of things, we have a very high input crop where we have several improved management practices," Romulo says. "We are then breaking down the production components into individual factors. We will have our very low-input control, and add those individual management practices to that one at a time."

They will also be removing the controls from the intensive management practice one at a time to see how the wheat reacts.

By using this approach, Lollato and his team will be able to differentiate wheat yields resulting from intensive management practices, as opposed to those from standard management. They will also be able to find the influence from each practice to determine whether the practice is resulting in a higher grain yield or not.

So far in the research, the team has found a few different factors that will help with management practices in future growing seasons. "What we have found so far is fungicide is what was really driving yields last growing season when we had the severe stripe rust infestation. We provided fungicide to our very low input practice, and it yielded the same as the high input practice. This is showing us a sustainable way to increase production, and that we don't need to put everything out; we need to manage it according to the growing season," Lollato says.

The funding for this research has been provided by Kansas wheat farmers through the Kansas Wheat Commission's two-penny wheat assessment. Once the research is completed, the farmers will reap the benefits in more ways than one.

"We are trying to find ways that producers can have higher yields and increased profitability, while economically reducing the current yield gap and the environmental footprint of wheat production in Kansas," Lollato says.



QSI staff was all smiles as they had the opportunity to visit with a large number of farm show visitors.



Attendees of the Mid America Farm Expo in Salina visit with the folks in the Don's Tire booth. Rain on Wednesday and Thursday made it a good time to go to the farm show.

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Soybean fertility considerations

Soybeans are a great fit for our eastern Kansas crop rotations for a number of reasons. One of those reasons is their ability to fix their own nitrogen, subsequently reducing that crop input cost for the soybean portion of the rotation. It might be tempting with tighter production budgets to consider cutting other crop nutrient inputs for soybeans as well. Do so only with extreme caution.

For example, while soybeans do tend to be able to obtain adequate amounts of phosphorous from the soil at lower soil P levels than say, corn or wheat, low soil test levels may well warrant phosphorous applications to make sure the crop has what it needs to produce adequate yields. As a general rule of thumb, soybeans remove around eight-tenths of a pound of phosphorous in each bushel of grain yield. At low soil test levels, or in situations where we provide P to the corn portion of the rotation but not the soybeans, soil test levels could drop to a level where additional phosphorous applications are necessary to provide an adequate yield environment.

Low phosphorous levels have even been found to be a factor in soybean disease. A long-term macronutrient fertility study at the Kansas River Valley Experiment Field with a corn/soybean rotation have showed that soil P levels can have a significant influence on the severity of SDS (Sudden Death Syndrome). During the soybean rotation phase of the study, SDS symptoms increased significantly as P fertility decreased. On a site where no P had been applied, the percent defoliation by SDS at R6 averaged 39% compared to 16% in a plot where a 60 pound P rate had been applied. The resulting yield increase was greater than 50%. The bottom line: paying attention to soil P levels is an important step in SDS management.

Response to potassium fertilizers is also high in soybean production, with

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deficiencies on the increase over the last decade or so. Removal rate of K in soybean production is generally around 1.4 pounds per bushel.

While micronutrients like sulfur and in some instances iron (typically in high pH soils) might be of concern, research hasn't shown consistent responses to other micro nutrients that would limit soybean yields at this time.

Soybeans are an important

part of our crop rotation. While their fertility needs are not the same as those we are used to in corn production, they are important just the same. When soil test levels are low, nutrients need to be applied to each crop in the rotation for the best response. Make sure your soil sampling or tissue testing program addresses potential deficiencies to insure your soybean crop is as productive as it can be!

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Friday, April 21, 2017, 1:00 p.m.

Lunch Served.



- Tract #1:** 88 acres more or less. Pasture, meadow, pond and fenced. Access to Highway 69 and 215th St. Part of the NE 1/2 of Section 18-26-25 Bourbon County Kansas. Approximately 1 mile South of Fort Scott.
- Tract #2:** 765 acres more or less. Native pasture, timber, ponds part of a Watershed Lake and fenced. East of Lake Fort Scott with access from 215th St. and Hackberry Road. Part of Sections 14, 13 and 18-26-25 Bourbon County Kansas.
- Tract #3:** 148 acres more or less. Pasture, ponds, and fenced. 2 miles west of Fort Scott on Highway 54. Part of the NE 1/4 of 22-25-24 Bourbon County Kansas.
- Tract #4:** 40 acres more or less. Native pasture, fenced, pond and a few trees. Corner of Highway 54 and 500 Road, SE 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Section 3-35-33 Vernon County Missouri. 2 miles West of Deerfield. RWD in area.
- Tract #5:** 80 acres more or less. Native pasture, few trees, pond and fenced. Corner of Highway 54 and 500 Road. W 1/2 of SW 1/4 of Section 2-35-33 Vernon County, Missouri. 2 miles West of Deerfield. RWD in area.
- Tract #6:** 148 acres more or less. Tillable bottom ground, 1/3 mile of Marmaton River, timber, marsh and pecan grove with access from 500 Road. W 1/2 or NW 1/4 of Section 2-35-33 and part of W 1/2 of SW 1/4 of Section 35-35-33 Vernon County, Missouri. 2 miles West and 1/2 North of Deerfield.
- Tract #7:** 15 acres more or less. Meadow on Indian Road between Hwy. 69 and 215 St. NE 1/4 of 18-26-25 Bourbon County Kansas. RWD in area.

Manner of sale: tracts to be offered individually.
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AROUND KANSAS



Have been under the weather and find my thoughts wandering...

After receiving my diagnosis of bronchitis and laryngitis from the clinic in Oakley, I asked Dr. Jake to explain bronchitis to me. I have pretty much zero medical knowledge, and have avoided gaining any such knowledge fairly successfully most of my life.

My mother and sister were interested in such things; they took first-aid classes and read medical books. I loved biology but loathed actually applying that information to making people well. I liked our family doctor, Dr. Eric Jarrell, Daddy's cousin who

had "apprenticed" with the family physician who had delivered my mother and tending my dying great-grandmother. He had tended everybody. Dr. Jarrell knew your medical history when he saw your daddy's name on the chart. He knew where your "normal" was supposed to be. He walked in the exam room when I was eight years old and said from across the room, "That child has pneumonia." His exam proved what he heard and observed not only from knowing me, but from knowing the soil and sinew of my family, on both sides.

I simply did not need to understand medical issues.

There were other people in my life to take care of such things.

But now, sharing my life with a doctor, I find my comfort level pushed further and further on a daily basis. I help Dr. Jake at the Wakeeney Sale Barn on Tuesdays, and am forced to learn the names of vaccines and procedures. I cannot help but wonder how humans and cows are similar or different. We just had two foals (beyond precious, by the way) and I still marvel that these little beasts are vulnerable, yet born ready to survive in the world.

It is a constant classroom with a new discovery every day.

And while Dr. Jake refuses to diagnose my symptoms or give me penicillin intended for bovines, he does help me understand the process. And it is comforting to know that there are significant differences between me and a heifer. Significant differences.

Deb Goodrich is the co-host of the Around Kansas TV Show, the Wednesday feature of AGam. She may be contacted at author.debgoodrich@gmail.com.

Henbit and the soil seed bank

A beautiful purple carpet extends across many fields in Kansas each early spring. Growing only a few inches above the ground, these purple Kansas meadows will soon be plowed. More purple patches sprout in our yards, soon to produce seeds before we start mowing grass.

Commonly known as henbit, its scientific name is *Lamium amplexicaule*. It is not native to North America. Henbit originated in Asia, Europe and northern Africa. It arrived long ago, spreading west into the Great Plains. Henbit is an early spring wildflower, basking in the sunlight after the winter thaw and before tall weeds or trees grow leaves to block the sun. Back in its Mediterranean homeland, henbit even flowers during the mild winters.

The purple flowers consist of four male stamens, two long and two short. The purple carpet we see from a distance is thousands of flowers, each a ring of fused petals forming a tube nearly an inch long. Being

among the first flowers in early spring, henbit is an important pollen and nectar source for bees. And if there are not enough pollinating insects, the flowers can self-pollinate.

In either case, henbit has evolved to produce seeds before being overshadowed by other plants. Or before being plowed under!

And that is the question that should puzzle us. Since many Kansas fields with this beautiful purple henbit will soon be plowed under, how does henbit keep returning year after year, carpeting the meadow with color?

The answer: the soil seed bank. Not to be confused with genetic seed banks where botanists store wide varieties of important crops variants, the soil seed bank consists of the varieties of seeds that are mixed in the soil and available to eventually germinate.

It was Charles Darwin who first observed seeds germinate from soil taken from a lake bottom in 1859. Once he pointed out that soils stored seeds, this idea

of soil seed banks led to research that explained why some plants would rapidly appear as weeds while other plants were slow to invade.

Some plant seeds are "transient," germinating at the first opportunity and are present in the soil seed bank for only a short time, or not at all. But "persistent" seeds endure through many opportunities to germinate; the common weed known as lambsquarters produces seeds that remain in the soil seed bank ready to germinate for up to 40 years. And tropical lotus seeds can reside in lake bottoms for over 1000 years and germinate!

Research on the soil seed bank is important in agriculture; it helps us understand why some weeds are more common than others. And henbit is truly an evasive weed. But because it grows so early in the spring and is plowed or cultivated out so readily that it gives us little trouble in farming, we don't mind it as a "weed."

And it is so darn pretty this time of year.

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Anybody can raise livestock on pasture. However, only a few people possess the knowledge to make a profit raising livestock on pasture. No one is born with this knowledge. There are typically two ways to learn it. The first way is the old-fashioned way, through trial and error. This method is usually quite expensive! It costs a producer in poor pasture production, poor animal performance, and occasionally the dead animal. The second way is to learn, formally or informally. This is a wise, economical and profitable way!

This educational workshop will be held at the Topeka Ramada Convention Center, 420 SE 6th Ave, Downtown, Topeka, on April 22, 2017 from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Since the biggest variable in raising livestock on pasture is the performance of the pasture itself, the big-

gest determiner of whether you can make a profit is your knowledge of pasture management. Unfortunately, the typical level of pasture management leaves a lot to be desired, as the majority of pastures are very nonproductive. Even experienced ranchers who are experts in animal husbandry often fall short in their pasture management, and could benefit greatly from better understanding of how to maximize their pasture performance. Often, the easiest way to improve the profitability of a livestock operation is to improve pasture performance. The typical pasture in Kansas produces about 50 pounds of beef per acre, but there are recorded instances of ranchers producing over 2000 pounds of beef an acre. That is an astonishing forty times the average. Would you like to know their secrets?

An opportunity to learn

these secrets will be available April 22nd at the Ramada Inn in Topeka, as Dale Strickler will be presenting a seminar entitled "Maximizing Pasture Profits". This highly requested seminar will focus on managing to increase pasture production, improving forage nutritional value, and enhancing utilization by livestock, all while improving the land and soil. Dale has a diverse background with both formal education and practical experience in pasture management, and has had over 1000 visitors to his ranch field days over the last twelve years. This seminar has an attendance charge of \$100, roughly the cost of one ton of high quality hay. It is equally suited to the novice or experienced rancher. There will be an early registration discounted rate of \$85 if paid and mailed in by April 15, 2017. Lunch, handouts and some door prize drawings are included with registration fees.

Topics to be discussed: Pasture economics: Where does my money go, and how can I keep more of it? Understanding the differences between warm-season grasses, cool-season grasses, legumes and forbs. What are the plants in my pasture? Forage quality and animal nutrition, developing a forage chain to provide grazing around the year, determining a proper stocking rate, grazing systems management, maximizing native grass performance, maximizing cool-season grass performance, establishing the perfect pasture, using perennial pasture legumes to produce nitrogen, strategies for reducing hay costs, providing late summer forage to beat the heat, dealing with mud and drought, fencing and water development on the cheap.

To register for this Kansas Graziers Association Workshop, send names, contact information and registration fee to Mary Howell, 1723 Wildcat Rd., Frankfort, KS 66427-8618. Make Checks payable to Kansas Graziers Association or KGA.

For more information and registration form, call Mary 785-562-8726 or email kfu.mary@gmail.com For specific questions, contact Dale Strickler at 785-614-2031, or email dalestrickler613@gmail.com

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Note: For a complete list of the motorcycles and pictures, check our web site at www.thummelauction.com. The Frasier's have collected for over 50 years. We will start on parts and sell motorcycles and truck at 12:00 noon. For more information contact Doug at 785-545-6020. Bill of sales will be used. Terms are cash or good check. Buyers unknown to auction must furnish a bank letter of credit 3 days before auction date.

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Legal Description: W ½ SE ¼ & S ½ NE ¼ 18-8-4 Cloud Co. Kansas

The farm is located 2 miles East of Glasco, Kansas on Highway 24 to 70th Road ½ mile South. There are 161.35 acres with 156.21 acres of crop land 5.14 acres of water ways. Bases are wheat 156.21: grain sorghum 12.90: for a total base of 144.20 acres.

Seller will pay 2016 and all prior years taxes. Purchaser will pay 2017 taxes. 2016 taxes were \$2,445.44.

Possession: Possession will be after 2017

wheat harvest. Purchaser will receive landlord's share of growing wheat.

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College students discover opportunities at Kansas Corn Careers events

Kansas Corn continued its Careers in Corn college tour with a recent stop in at Kansas State University. The tour's purpose is to connect current students with professionals and possible future employers in the Kansas corn industry. The tour stops, sponsored by Kansas Corn and co-sponsored by Western Plains Energy, LLC and Farm Credit Associations of Kansas, provide relaxed, social atmospheres where industry professionals can share their career stories and students can ask questions about their career paths. The Careers in Corn tour is part of Kansas Corn's Collegiate programs.

K-State student Halle Sparks recently changed her major from biology to food science and attended the event looking for information about possible careers.

"This is a really new field for me. I don't come

from an ag background. Tonight, I just want to network with people. I want to know where they come from and how they are involved in Kansas corn," she said. "Hopefully I can use information from what I've learned tonight to help me better determine my career path."

Derek Peine, CEO of Western Plains Energy, LLC, is one of the industry professionals highlighted through the program. He spoke with students at the Colby Community College and Fort Hays University tour stops earlier this year.

"I believe that the Careers in Corn Program provides students with a unique opportunity to hear first-hand from professionals from various industries related to the agricultural community," Peine said. "The discussions are centered around how agriculture encompasses a wide

range of technical and professional roles. As Kansans, most of us are involved, either directly or indirectly, with the ag sector. This program hopefully shows students that they can pursue the college studies of their choice and apply those learnings in a professional career that allows them to maintain their connection to agricultural."

Peine said that from an industry standpoint, he believes one of the greatest benefits of the program is the chance to interact directly with young adults who have an interest in the ag sector.

"We get to share our passion for our various industries," Peine said, "and the discussions will hopefully engage the students in a way that will help them to want to stay in Kansas, remain active in our ag community, and maybe even join our industry."

The Careers in Corn tour has also stopped at Hutchinson Community College and Pratt Community College. To continue the spring tour, Kansas Corn will visit Fort Scott Community College on April 25 and Allen County Community College on April 26.

The Careers in Corn program is component of a larger Kansas Corn Collegiate Program which offers more opportunities for students across the state to get involved in the corn industry. The first opportunity is a student membership rate. For \$25, students can become members of both the Kansas Corn Growers Association and the National Corn Growers Association and receive the regular membership benefits as well as some additional benefits.

Student members of KCGA will be eligible for the Next Generation Scholarship program. This new

scholarship program is available by application and is focused on students who are currently enrolled in college in the spring of 2017 and planning to be enrolled in the 2017-2018 school year. Scholarship applications are now available and will be awarded in February 2018.

Students with KCGA memberships will also receive the chance to participate in the new Kansas Corn Collegiate Academy. The program encourages college students to dive deeper into the corn industry and gives them insights into the opportunities and hurdles that lie ahead of the corn industry and how their future career paths may fit in the corn industry. Participating students will create a capstone project that will relate the information they have learned back to their area of study. Students will participate in a day at the Statehouse in Topeka and Corn Congress in Washington D.C. Applicants must be currently enrolled in post-secondary school and still in school through spring semester 2018. This program is now receiving applications through October 31, 2017.

For more information about any of Kansas Corn's collegiate programs or to download applications please visit www.kscorn.com/collegiate.

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DuPont Pioneer soil fertility study affirms phosphorus, potassium levels can impact yields

Critical analysis of yield results from the 2016 growing season further affirmed a DuPont Pioneer study released in August 2016 that indicated growers may be leaving profit potential in the field by not carefully managing phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) levels.

"Growers have told Pioneer that they think improving soil fertility management is one of the best ways to increase corn and soybean yields," said Rick Radliff, DuPont Pioneer senior agronomy manager. "In Iowa alone, our results indicate that marginal soil fertility may contribute to hundreds of millions of dollars in lost revenue each year."

With data from Iowa and across the Corn Belt, Pioneer found that yields trend lower in areas where phosphorous and potassium levels fall below state recommendations. This aligns with previous research conducted at Iowa State University indicating a 65 percent to 80 percent probability of positive yield response by fertilizing to raise P or K soil-test values from very low or low to optimum (Iowa State University Extension PM 1688).

The data also showed that the highest corn yields did not benefit from P and K levels that were above the optimum recommended amount; however, more work needs to be conducted as some growers are striving for much higher yields. Additionally, data variability indicates other factors could influence crop yield, such as soil compaction, planting date and population, drainage, foliar disease, insect feeding and weather.

DuPont Pioneer agronomists advise that these challenges can be addressed through regular soil testing, a clear understanding of each field's yield potential and a field-by-field fertilizer program that results in the biggest return on investment. Five specific tips for managing soil fertility include:

Know your soil test levels.

Don't reduce nutrient application rates in low-testing soils, even if the fields are rented.

Don't apply buildup rates within two years that are higher than needed to opti-

mize yield goals.

Don't fertilize in high-testing soils if budgets are tight.

Avoid practices that inhibit root development and nutrient uptake.

"Managing soil fertility is complex," said Radliff. "Through offerings such as EncircasM Fertility services, growers can access resources to help them achieve their goals."

The study was conducted as part of the Pioneer® GrowingPoint® agronomy program, which provides valuable crop-management insights for growers on pro-

duction practices to help growers improve productivity and profit potential.

Pioneer sampled nearly 9,000 fields between 2015 and 2016, with some fields in 10 Corn Belt states showing at least some deficiencies in soil phosphorus levels. This can lead to issues with early root and shoot growth and can reduce tolerance to drought, disease and temperature stresses. The same samples found that four Corn Belt states had at least some deficiency in potassium in its soils, which affects water regulation, enzyme activation and

promotes stalk strength and late-season standability. Pioneer has developed individualized P and K reports for states and regions, as well as aggregate results for the Corn Belt.

To learn more about the importance of soil fertility management, including state-specific results, talk to a representative from your local Pioneer team or visit the Pioneer GrowingPoint agronomy website. Visit the EncircasM services website to learn more about Encircas services.

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Recent grant spurs Kansas 4-H's efforts to inspire kids to college

A program designed to help under-represented or at-risk youth in Kansas find their way to college has been given a vote of confidence from the National 4-H Council.

Aliah Mestrovich Seay, a Kansas 4-H specialist for new audiences, said that the 4-H program in Seward County recently received a grant for \$57,000 to continue building a program that has given more than 100 middle school students in the southwest area an opportunity to visit a college campus — most of them for the first time.

In January, Kansas 4-H launched a college and career readiness mentoring program in Seward County with students at South Middle School in Liberal.

"This program started small and now it's becoming sustainable with the 4-H Youth Futures grant," Mestrovich Seay said. "We can now continue these efforts

to expose kids to a whole new world, with so many opportunities."

Mestrovich Seay said that the program began in 2015 with a \$10,000 grant from Kansas State University's Center for Engagement and Community Development (CECD). It was called a College and Career Readiness Initiative, and focused on helping youth and families in southwest Kansas.

The college visits focus on exposure to science, technology, engineering, agriculture and mathematics (STEAM), she said. The youth also get a chance to meet with representatives from academic and administrative departments, learning more about such things as financial aid, taking the SAT or ACT, and more.

Some of the youth at South Middle School were among those who have attended events at Dodge City Community College and

Kansas State University since 2015. Mestrovich Seay said, with help from Kansas State University, the program provided busing, overnight housing and meals to the students while they were visiting the campus.

Debra Bolton, an Extension specialist in family and consumer sciences in southwest Kansas, has been conducting multilingual studies with individuals and families in that region for the past eight years. She provided data based on 751 surveys and 130 face-to-face interviews that helped to land the initial \$10,000 grant.

She said that in research with Hispanic and other non-white populations in southwest Kansas, "There was a 14 percent increase in respondents who said that having an education will help my family live a better life."

"Education is a priority for these families, but qual-

itatively we found that they experience more barriers to gaining access to education," Bolton said.

She cited data that indicates that 54 percent of non-white populations say that having an education would help them to live better lives, as opposed to 16 percent of white respondents. But, just 2 percent of non-whites have a bachelor's degree compared to 18 percent of white respondents, and in fact 61 percent of non-white respondents do not have a high school diploma.

"When we were interviewing families, they talked about their inadequacies in being able to support their kids with school, meaning financially, academically and socially, so they seemed less involved," Bolton said. "Some of the superintendents and principals we talked to saw this as a sign that the parents don't care about their children's

education. There was a huge contrast of ideas."

Vicky Yorio is the site coordinator for the 4-H Youth Futures pilot program at South Middle School. She conducts weekly lessons focused on college readiness, and works to pair mentors with each middle school student.

"I'm trying to create positive, attainable goals focused on academic achievement and citizenship," said Yorio, whose class includes 35 students, many of whom do not currently speak English. "These students will gain experience in leadership, help plan programs, and prepare for college."

The Seward County pilot program will continue through the end of this year, and will be dependent on additional funding. Seay said at least two other counties are already expressing interest in 4-H Youth Futures, and hope to secure

funding to begin their own programs soon.

The \$10,000 grant through the university's CECD office ends this year. Dodge City Community College and the K-State Research and Extension office in Ford County will host the next College and Career Readiness Day on April 20.

"We need to continue to support youth in finding a road map beyond high school, to college and beyond," Seay added. "The events that we held with the CECD grant were highly successful, based on the positive responses from youth and families. Kids are saying, 'I like the engineering session' or 'I like learning about things.'"

"There are so many opportunities out there if they can find a tangible road map to college. And with these programs, they are finding that."

'Little House on the Prairie' cabin in need of makeover

(AP) — It's time for Laura's house to get a makeover.

The cabin is drooping and logs are deteriorating at the site where, in 1869, Ma, Pa, Laura, Mary and baby Carrie Ingalls settled near Independence in the southeastern corner of Kansas.

The Ingalls family came to Kansas inspired by the Homestead Act of 1862, which offered 160 acres of "free land" to settlers who would farm and live on it for a few years — and coincidentally because Pa's cousin, John J. Ingalls, had gone to Kansas and was a U.S. senator.

"But Ma said all he had

was an itching foot," author Laura Ingalls Wilder would write of her famous second cousin.

The *Wichita Eagle* reports that the current Ingalls cabin is a re-creation that was built in 1977, at the height of popularity of the TV series *Little House on the Prairie*, starring Michael Landon and Melissa Gilbert, that was based on the popular children's book series.

The site, 13 miles southwest of Independence, is real. It is, indeed, where the Ingalls family settled.

But in the 1970s as people drove by wanting to see where the Ingalls had lived,

all that remained was a hand-dug well.

The farm was owned then by retired Brig. Gen. William Kurtis and his wife, Wilma. She had inherited the family farm from her grandparents, Bert and Lillian Horton.

Their two children, Bill and Jean, eventually became well-known Kansans in their own right.

In 1968, the Kurtis family discovered the farm was the 1869 homestead of Laura Ingalls and her family.

"When we opened the site in 1972, people would drive by and see all these wide, open spaces, sunshine and clouds and say, 'Is that all there is?' We had a little sign over in the barnyard," said Jean Schodorf, Kurtis' daughter and a former Republican state senator from Wichita. She is now the president of the Little House on the Prairie board site. Her daughter Kristin Schodorf is the executive director.

As people became more interested in the site, her family — as well as locals in the area — decided to build a cabin. Eighty trees were cut down on the Kurtis farm, and the Independence Jaycees helped build the cabin. Schodorf said building the cabin in 1977 to the specifications in Wilder's book was daunting.

When the Ingalls built

their cabin, they had three people, a horse and a wagon, and Pa used a hatchet to chop down trees, she said.

It took the Kurtis family three months, 150 volunteers, chain saws and pickups to do the 1977 version.

And now, 40 years later, it is time to do it again.

"We're in quite the predicament, because what is Little House on the Prairie Museum without a log cabin?" wrote Kristin Schodorf in an email to *The Eagle*. "We're trying to raise money for it, but it's just trickling in. We're applying for grants but need matching monies. We're trying to raise \$48,000. So far, we have \$2,000."

More than 20,000 people from around the world visit the cabin site each year, Jean Schodorf said.

The site also includes the Wayside Post Office and the Sunnyside Schoolhouse. The mission of the site is to generate among children and families a love of reading, Kansas history and an affinity for the Kansas prairie.

"Little House on the Prairie is known throughout the world," Schodorf said. "Douglas MacArthur had the *Little House* books translated into Japanese so the Japanese could learn about America. "Little House on the Prairie is America. It is Kansas."

Families will drive to the site, Schodorf said, and children will climb out of cars dressed like Laura, Mary and Carrie. Mothers will put down blankets, and the families will picnic.

One woman this past year flew from England and rented a taxi from Independence to visit the site.

That's one reason Schodorf would like to see the tourism site continue.

The current cabin was not built to last; log cabins seldom were.

"You can only chink and re-chink and re-chink so many times," Schodorf said.

The current cabin's logs have deteriorated, and almost all the weight of the cabin is resting on the door jamb.

"Eventually, the logs will come down," she said. "We might get another season out of it."

Plans are to raise \$48,000 and collect 160 walnut logs to build both a cabin and stable. The walnut logs must be six to eight inches wide, 20 feet long and straight.

"We will have to do this if we are to continue," she said.

A GoFundMe site has been started. Schodorf is hoping to obtain some grant funding and donations, perhaps including tree donations.

The site is also in the process of obtaining 94 prints signed by *Little House on the Prairie* illustrator Garth Williams, which will add to a visitor's experience, Schodorf said.

Laura Ingalls Wilder was in her mid-60s when she began writing about her childhood experiences.

"There was only the enormous, empty prairie, with grasses blowing in waves of light and shadow across it, and the great blue sky above

it... In all that space of land and sky stood the lonely, small, covered wagon," Ingalls wrote.

Kansas, as a homesteading state, had nearly 90,000 successful homestead claims, representing 25 percent of the state's total acreage. Immigrants, Civil War veterans, women and former slaves all came to Kansas to start over.

Some walked. Some came by covered wagon. Others rode trains.

The Ingalls family came by wagon and illegally settled on land that was on the Osage Indian reservation.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of Wilder's birth. She was born Feb. 7, 1867, near Pepin in the Big Woods region of Wisconsin. The Ingalls family moved to Kansas when Laura was 2.

They lived on the Kansas prairie for less than two years. During that time, they built a house and stable and survived a visit by wolves, clouds of mosquitoes, a prairie fire and occasional visits by Osage Indians, on whose reservation the family settled.

It was also in Kansas that the Ingalls family nearly died and was saved by a black doctor, George Tann, who happened to be passing by the family's cabin.

In her book, Wilder described the family as having 'fever 'n' ague.' The family had been so besieged with mosquitoes, they had come down with malaria.

The family slowly recovered, with the help of Tann.

While Laura Ingalls was growing up, the Ingalls family moved several times, each time to a new frontier: Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Indian Territory and Dakota Territory.

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 2008 NH T6070, 948hrs.....\$59,000
 1998 NH 1630, 798 hrs.....\$2,200
 1994 Ford 8970, 6550hrs.....\$57,500
 1991 Case 5140, 4071hrs.....\$29,500
 2013 Case Puma 170, 470hrs.....\$143,000
 2013 Case Magnum 180, 603hrs \$145,000
 2014 Case Magnum 190, 570hrs \$135,000
 2003 Case MX285, 3500hrs.....\$100,000
 1991 Case 7130, 4727hrs.....\$62,000
 2001 JD 5055E, 171hrs.....\$37,500

COMBINES

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 2007 Case 2020H.....\$16,500

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TRACT I: SE1/4 SE1/4, 1-8-2, Cloud Co., KS. The farm is located on Eagle & 240 Road, 2 miles West of Miltonvale on Highway 24 and 1 mile North. There are 38.53 acres all grass w/very good fence and pond. 2016 Taxes were \$205.46. Purchaser will pay all of 2017 taxes. Possession will be immediate.

TRACT II: N1/2, 1-8-2, Cloud Co., KS. The farm is located on Fawn Road between 230 Road & 240 Road, 1/4 mile North of Tract I. There are 320.43 acres with 168.37 cropland acres, base acres are 132.3 wheat with 29 bu. yield, 7.2 grain sorghum with 56 bu. yield for a total base acres of 139.5. There are 2 Valley pivots on the farm new in 2014. One pivot has 114.2 acres with 6 towers, 1317 hours, new fence around circle, the other has 54.17 acres with 5 towers 331 hours, new fence around circle. The well was new in 2014, 6" w/Amarillo gear head, it pumps 550 gal. per minute. The motor is John Deere 6068T w/15 KW generator 480 volt, 1666 hours, 1000 gal. fuel tank with cover over tank & pump. The well is authorized to divert no more than 247 acre feet of water per calendar year, at a rate not to exceed 1300 gallons per minute for use on 190 acres. There are 152.06 acres pasture. The farm has all new fence around the outside of the farm there is also a division fence in the pasture. The pasture has a large pond, stock well w/2 cement tanks & submersible pump. There is creek in pasture. The pasture is clean. This is a very good cow-calf operation. The farms are in new expansion area of Meridian Way II wind farm. 230 Road is an all weather road. 2016 taxes were \$2,866.52. Purchaser will pay 2017 taxes.

Terms: 10% of purchase price as down payment day of auction, the balance will be due upon closing on or before May 10, 2017. Down payment will be escrowed with Condray & Thompson, LLC, escrow fees will be split 50/50 between seller & purchaser. Title insurance will be used, the cost will be split 50/50 between seller & purchaser.

Possession: will be immediate, there are no growing crops.

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Examining lessons from the 1980s farm crisis

By Tom Parker

Prior to a panel discussion on the 1980s farm crisis and its implications for the future, a documentary about the crisis was aired for members of the Kansas Farmers Union during their annual convention. For the audience, some of whom lived through the events, it set a sobering tone to what would follow. For the panelists – Charlie Griffin, Ed Reznicek, Forrest Buhler and Linda Hessman – it presented a historical blueprint of shared knowledge that could prevent farmers, mediators and advocacy workers from making the same mistakes again.

Griffin couldn't help but feel a sense of déjà vu, and he was reminded of another documentary that opened his eyes to the cyclical nature of crises and humanity's penchant for forgetting.

He was manning phones at the Farm Crisis Hotline when an old man hobbled through the door. The man introduced himself as Wendell Hoffmann, formerly a cameraman for CBS, and said he wanted to discuss the farm crisis of 1963. With him were three large spools of film that he had shot for a CBS special on the crisis.

Griffin, engulfed at the time with the farm crisis of 1986, wasn't aware of a farm crisis in 1963. He would have been 13 years old then, and life on the family farm near Lyons had seemed perfectly ordinary. At any rate, his parents had never discussed any crisis in front of the children.

As he watched the film, though, Griffin was increasingly stunned at its implications, as well as its personalized focus. One segment showed his neighbor standing in the bed of a grain truck with the Griffin farm visible in the distance. Another segment panned down Main Street of Lyons, where he could see his parents' car parked in front of the J.C. Penney store. It wasn't so much that it happened, nor that it happened in his own backyard, to neighbors and friends and, perhaps, even to his own parents, but that it happened without his cognizance.

"I had no idea," he said. "I was oblivious to it. But it gave me a history to think about the recurring cycles of crisis that agriculture has gone through in this country.

That's the value of looking back in time."

More than two decades later, he recognized his own shock in the faces of young farmers after facilitating another panel discussion on the 1980s farm crisis. Afterward, several farmers told him that they had no idea that it had happened. One said, "We need to understand it so we don't have to live through it again." And, as if an echo across time and space, he heard the same thing repeated at a meeting last summer.

It was, Griffin learned, a common but misguided fault among farm families. That self-imposed silence, meant as a protective measure, in turn had the opposite effect, leaving families vulnerable to the next crisis. Collectively, it amounted to a generational amnesia.

Hessman agreed. "If there is one thing that can do us in, it is silence," she said. "Life is lived forward but understood backward. It's important to learn from each other, to be aware of our neighbors. We have to learn as a group, and to not wait too long, because the guy down the road is starting to experience the same thing. We cannot afford to let that happen again."

The discussion, "Responding to the Next Farm Crisis," was both a primer and a call to action from speakers who had either farmed through the crisis or performed advocacy work. They included Griffin, who served as assistant director of Kansas Farmers Assistance, Counseling and Training Service from 1985 to 1994, and as director of the Kansas Rural Assistance Helpline from 2001 to 2010; Hessman, a farmer and rancher from Dodge City, a certified mediator specializing in agricultural issues, and a national Farm Aid advocate; Reznicek, a Nemaha County rancher and organic farmer who worked as a paralegal for Kansas Legal Services from 1978 to 1983, assisting farmers to develop debt and loan restructuring plans and negotiating with creditors to enable farmers to continue their operations, and continued that work with the Kansas Rural Center from late 1983 to 1988; and Buhler, staff attorney for Farmers Assistance Counseling and Training Service from 1987 to 1995,

and staff attorney for Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services since 1995.

With so much uncertainty over the future, the panelists agreed, it was time to reiterate the lessons that were learned from the front lines of the '80s crisis. "We don't know what the next farm crisis might look like," Griffin said, "but I suspect it will be different. What should we be doing now so we don't let another few years go by?"

One of the most important considerations is to keep the lines of communication open, several panelists said.

"Knowledge is power," Hessman said. "In the eighties, people didn't talk to kids about the crisis. This time we need to make sure that families know how to address it. It's part of life. Maybe this time we can be a little more astute at that."

Networking was at the top of Buhler's list of concerns. Last summer an economist told him that there were four ways to survive and endure the cycle. The top priority was communication, first with your spouse and then with your lender. Education and training were also on the list. Unfortunately, he said, we've lost the ability to network.

"We've become specialized and we're off doing our thing, and suddenly we have a crisis and we need each other," Buhler said. "We need to have that network again. We need to know each other again."

Recognizing the mental health aspect and having systems in place for mitigation are also critical, he said. Many of the programs and legislation that came out of the 1980s are still in existence, including programs such as the Kansas Ag Mediation Services that moderates discussions between farmers and lenders and can provide mediators, number crunchers and a staff of attorneys.

"So some very positive things came out of the crisis," he said. "But farmers still cry on the phone. It still doesn't go away. It's still a difficult situation. That's why mental health aspect is so important to this process.

How do you help people get through the emotional stuff? We're missing that right now."

Griffin agreed. "We were fortunate in the eighties to be able to pull together a farm crisis hotline and have a network of people across the state in church settings, ministers who were good pastoral counselors, and some of the rural community health centers that stepped up to help," he said. "Today I don't even know where to refer someone for help like that, somebody who understands farm culture. We need to rebuild that system."

As the mental health expert of the panelists, Griffin said that his experience has shown that people who come to events like the convention or join organizations and communicate to others are able to handle crisis much more effectively than people who isolate themselves at home. "The first thing to do is to take care of yourself," he said. "The second thing is to keep an eye on the family and make sure you communicate well. Pay attention to friends and neighbors, and invite them to events or to join local activities."

Reducing debt dependency and input costs are two ways to weather a financial crisis, Reznicek said. Farmers have always had a tendency to over-fertilize, so now is a good time to invest in soil tests. When prices fall below the cost of production, consider reducing costs instead of producing extra yield. Diversifying is also something to strive for.

"We've heard a lot about diversity over the years, about cover crops and soil health," he said. "They are not always easy to implement. It'll be interesting to see if those folks are better situated to handle financial difficulties than those who haven't done those things. There are people who are wondering if they should sell assets now while the price is maybe better than in two or three or four years. These are difficult questions to ask, and difficult decisions to make."

Griffin was reminded of a rancher from southeast Kansas that he had met at a graziers conference a few years back. The man told him that he had a detailed system for managing his grasslands that was based on the amount of rain that fell, in which month it fell, and the amount of plant growth and dry matter that was available for his cows to graze on. It was further broken down into Plan A, Plan B and Plan C. Plan A was to maintain the full level of his operation if there was an abundance of water and grass. Plan B had a firm cutoff date whereby if the ranch didn't get enough water by then, he would sell part of his herd. Plan C was focused on conditions in August – if they were real bad, he needed to ask himself himself how deep into debt he would be willing to go.

"All of us need to be thinking about that," Griffin said. "We don't know what the next farm crisis will be, we're just speculating. Tom Giesel, a Larned farmer, commented that he didn't see any reason to be optimistic about the next few years – at least. Every one of us needs to think through a Plan A, a Plan B and a Plan C so we don't get caught saying, 'I don't know what to do. I'm up against the wall.' You should build it into family

discussions and your year by year farm planning. You should have a backup."

The convention, whose theme was "Helping Communities Help Themselves," was sponsored by Midwest Regional Agency, Farmers Union Insurance and the Kansas Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Alternative Crops. Kansas Farmers Union is the state's oldest active general farm organization working to protect and enhance the economic interests and quality of life for family farmers, ranchers and rural communities.

Let the CLASSIFIEDS work for you place your ad today GRASS & GRAIN 1531 Yuma Manhattan, KS 785-539-7558 Don't forget to call or go online at grassandgrain.com

AUCTION

SATURDAY, APRIL 15 — 9:30 AM

Location: 4649 W. Shipton Road, SALINA, KS (From Interstate 70 & Halstead Rd. interchange, mile marker #249, go North on Halstead Rd. to dead end at Shipton Rd. turn left and go West on Shipton 2 miles to 4649 Shipton, sale site).

Consisting of possible antiques & collectibles, toys, household, glassware, shop hand tools, power equipment, small tractor equipment & misc.

To view the auction bill on the internet in its entirety go to www.wacondatrader.com & www.salina.com

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

Toledo Scale Co. counter candy scale; soda fountain table w/4 matching chairs; old wringer washer; wash tub on stand; metal Chevrolet pickup sign, 1959; old wood burning stove; copper boiler; several pieces of cast iron cookware as Dutch oven, skillets, saucepans, lids; ceramic bowl & matching pitcher set; square wooden canister set w/salt & pepper shakers; old coffee percolator; USA 5 gal. crock; small Singer sewing machine in case; small mantel chime clock; nice glass enclosed quilt rack; several quilts; nice wooden quilt rack; portable Singer sewing machine in case; nice 2-door china cupboard; several pieces of Ruby Red glassware as in glasses, plates, cups, saucers; Bells; Japan Bluejay figurines; numerous beer steins; gumball machine; afghan blankets; Dunes Japan set of china, 12 plates, 12 cups, 12 saucers, 2 vegetable dishes, 12 salad bowls, gravy boat, turkey platter, salt & pepper; set of 6 Royal Seasons china; square shape green glassware set of 6; Royal 22K gold plate w/dish & lid; 6 plates of American Limoges china; round aluminum miners 6 plate lunch pail; glass refrigerator dishes; Pyrex casserole dishes; stainless steel steamer; pipe collection; small wooden wagon; stuffed animals; child's metal wagon; travel luggage; padded seat sewing rocker; wooden hanging ladders; heavy duty Christmas tree stand; George Foreman electric grill; child's toys; Farmall M tractor; IHC 4-wheel metal wagon; IHC 656 like tractor; metal grain wagon, Tonka crane and truck, Buddy L truck, Tonka camper; wooden wall hanging picture frames; twin size bed; Western Stoneware crocks & jugs; 4 USA swan pattern plates; Hamilton Beech blender; Maverick ice cream shoppe freezer; Rival crock-pots.

SHOP HAND TOOLS, POWER EQUIPMENT & MISC.

Craftsman 10" table saw; B&D router & bits; router & sabre saw
TERMS: Cash. Not responsible for accidents. All items sell in as-is condition. Register for a number to buy. Statements made day of sale take precedence over printed matter.

EDYTHE LONG, SELLER • 785-823-6029



Sale Conducted By: **BACON AUCTION CO.**
Royce K. Bacon, Auctioneer, 785-392-2465



AUCTION

FOR RAY & LU WILLINGHAM

SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2017 — 9:00 AM

627 Market Street — PORTIS, KANSAS

ANTIQUES-PRIMITIVES-COLLECTIBLES: Shaving Cups and Mugs; Children's Books; Look and Life JFK Magazines; 1934 Sears Magazines; Wooden Atlas Geladyn Powder Co. Box; Tapestry Pieces; Oil Lamps; Lead Glass Basket; Depression pieces; Hesston Belt Buckles; 1929 & 30 4-H Pictures; Standard Adv. Checker Board w/Checkers (CC Baker Luray, KS); Kansas Hwy 1 Sign; James Brant Meat Market Adv. Chain Picture (Lucas, KS); Fancywork; Fenton; Quilts; (2) Old Wood Doors; Political Pinbacks; (1) Yard Sprinklers; (1) Banks (some mechanical); Glass Minnow Trap; (1) toys; Blue Splatter Cl Tea Kettle (Wrought Iron Range Co. St. Louis, Mo); 48 Star Flag; Old Wrenches; (1) Pedals; Chev. Emblem; Wooden Pulleys; Old Car Lights; IHC Adv. Board; Roger Maris Baseball Bat; 1959 Harlem Globetrotters Program; Whiskey Decanters (Elvis, Trains, Cars, etc); Mad Magazine; 1947 Ithaca Gun Book; Sweet Cuba Tin; Architectural Pieces; Jars and Bottles; Fishing Lures; Green Cabinet Jars; Indian Pot; Seth Thomas Humpback Clock; Sylvan Grove, KS. Adv. Silhouette Picture; Enamelware; Fire King; Pyrex; Jewelry; Shirley Temple Pitchers.

FURNITURE, APPLIANCES, TOOLS

SALE CONDUCTED BY: WOLTERS AUCTION & REALTY

627 Market St., Box 68 • Portis, KS 67474

Cols. Jim Wolters and Rich Fairbank, auctioneers

Phone 785-346-2071; Cell 785-545-7097

Email: waction@ruraltel.net

Website: www.woltersauctionandrealty.com

PRIME GRASSLAND/HOME SITE

AUCTION

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2017 • 7:30 PM

Auction held at Wamego Senior Center, 501 Ash — WAMEGO, KS

Property is located near the intersection of K-99 Highway and I-70 in Wabaunsee County. Just south of said Junction turn East on SE K-99 frontage road 1/2 mile to the pasture gate.

72 Acres m/I of HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE NATIVE GRASS w/6 Acres of BROME!

This tract has tremendous possibilities with its location in proximity to I-70 and nearness to Manhattan and Topeka.

Rural H20 is 1/4 mile west.

It is 75% mowable and available for the 2017 season. Has all Newer Fences. This pasture is extremely clean as the owner is in the pasture restoration business.

Come and get your piece of the beautiful Flint Hills!

TERMS: 10% earnest money the day of the auction with the remainder at closing on or before May 11, 2017. Title insurance and escrow fees to be shared equally. The sale is not contingent on financing and all inspections should be conducted prior to the auction at bidder's expense. Murray Auction and Realty is acting as an agent for the seller. All information obtained from sources deemed to be reliable but not guaranteed. Statements made day of auction take precedence over printed material.

SELLER: HOWARD NEFF

MURRAY AUCTION & REALTY

Steve Murray, Broker/Auctioneer • 785-556-4354

www.murrayauctionandrealty.com

Magic cover crop carpet? Cover crop prevents weeds, protects soil

Organic farmers have to make hard choices between protecting soil from erosion and controlling weeds. For example, large-scale organic farming relies heavily on tillage. Tilling breaks up the soil to kill weeds and prepare for planting. But intense tillage can compact soil, cause erosion, and deplete nutrients. As a result, some organic farmers are turning to cover crops for weed control.

Cover crops are planted after harvest as an in-between crop. Cover crops improve the soil with living roots that protect it from erosion and add nutrients. Cover crops are usually plowed down, but another option is flattening the cover crop to form a thick carpet, or mat. They do this with a roller crimper—a heavy, rolling drum attached to a tractor.

The farmer then uses a no-

till planter to plant seeds into the flattened mat for the next season. The new crop grows through the cover crop residue, which helps suppress weeds.

This method—called cover crop-based organic rotational no-till—allows farmers to skip spring tillage and weeding. By simply flattening a cover crop, farmers don't have to disturb the soil for a new crop. The flattened cover crop suppresses weeds and retains soil moisture.

However, like many farming practices, this method has trade-offs. For example, if you flatten it too late, the cover crop might produce seeds. The result is a volunteer, or weedy, cover crop competing with next season's cash crop. And if you flatten the cover crop too early, it may regrow.

It's all in the timing, says crop scientist Clair Keene. Keene is a researcher at The Pennsylvania State University.

Keene and her colleagues wanted to find that perfect timing. So they planted an experiment in three different



Farmers roll a hairy vetch-triticale cover crop into a thick mat which serves as a mulch and weed-suppressant.

Photo by Clair Keene

states: Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. For three years, they planted cover crops like hairy vetch-triticale and cereal rye, followed by cash crops like corn and soybeans.

The researchers flattened the cover crops at different stages of growth to find the right combination. Was it possible to have a cover crop that was big enough to suppress weeds, but not so big that it produced seeds?

They found that generally, letting the cover crop grow longer produces the best, if not perfect, results.

"There's always trade-offs," said Keene. "A bigger cover crop is better at suppressing weeds as a mulch, but that comes with the cost of letting that crop grow longer, restricting the growing season for the corn or soybean."

Farmers want to plant their cash crop as early as possible, especially in northern states. If the cover crop is too small to be flattened, then they have to till it under, which defeats the purpose of improving soil quality. But if a cover crop remains in a field for too long, it might

start to produce seeds.

Every cover crop is a little different. For instance, the group found that cereal rye needs to be rolled in the middle of grain fill so that it doesn't produce seed and show up when it isn't wanted. And although hairy vetch is great at adding nitrogen to the soil, it can survive the roller crimper and compete with cash crops.

The researchers also found rolling the cover crops twice instead of once helped ensure the cover crops were killed.

Despite the tricky timing, Keene says rolling cover crops to form a mat has a lot of potential. Without it, "you'd have to plow the field multiple times, harrow it, plant it, and do a lot of weeding," she warns. "That's a lot of time in the tractor and a lot of diesel fuel."

Read the full results of their experiment in *Agronomy Journal*. Funding for the reduced-tillage organic systems experiment was provided by USDA Organic Research and Extension Initiative.

Nominations for 12th annual BQA Awards now being accepted

Nominations for the 2018 national Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Awards are now

being accepted. The beef checkoff-funded program, now in its 12th year, recognizes five winners in the areas of beef and dairy beef production, marketing and education.

Categories for the award are:

BQA Cow-Calf, BQA Feedyard and BQA Dairy awards recognize produc-

ers who best demonstrate the implementation of BQA principles as part of day-to-day activities on their respective operations;

The BQA Educator Award is open to individuals or companies that provide high quality and innovative training to individuals who care for and handle cattle throughout the industry

chain; and The BQA Marketer Award is open to livestock markets, cattle buyers and supply-chain programs that promote BQA to their customers and offer them opportunities to get certified.

Nominations for the national BQA Awards are submitted by organizations, groups, or individuals on behalf of a U.S. beef producer, dairy beef producer, marketer or educator. Individuals and families may not nominate themselves, although nominees are expected to be involved in the preparation of the application. While applications from past nominees are encouraged, previous winners may not reapply.

Winners of the BQA Awards are selected by a committee of BQA-certified representatives from universities, state beef councils, sponsors and affiliated groups.

For the application and nomination requirements, go to www.bqa.org. Applications are due by June 2, 2017 and should be submitted to Grace Webb at gwebb@beef.

LAND AUCTION

137 acres +/-
Riley County, Kansas

Thursday, April 27th at 7:00 pm
Leonardville Community Building
Leonardville, KS

54 acres +/- of pasture
83 acres +/- of cultivation, hay & alfalfa

Tract: W $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, &
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, all in 9-8-5E

Location: From Leonardville, travel approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west on Barton Road. Property is on the north side of the road.

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Gene Francis • Broker & Auctioneer
316.641.3120 • gene@genefrancis.com

see www.genefrancis.com for full auction flyer

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2017 — 7:00 PM

Auction will be held at the Wakefield Methodist Church Fellowship Hall 406 6th street in WAKEFIELD, KANSAS

Tract I: Legal Description: 167 acres in SW $\frac{1}{4}$ & W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 31-9-4 Clay Co. Kansas
The farm is located $\frac{1}{4}$ mile West of Wakefield, Kansas on the corner of Kansas Hwy 82 and County Hwy 837. There are 166.56 acres with 69.32 acres of crop land. 97.24 acres of grass. The pasture has 2 ponds. Bases are wheat 22.26, yield 33; grain sorghum 10.04, yield 77; soybeans 28.10, yield 35; for a total base of 60.40 acres. The Northeast corner of the pasture overlooks Milford Lake. Conservation system being actively applied.
Seller will pay 2016 and all prior years taxes. Purchaser will pay 2017 taxes. 2016 taxes were \$1,138.28
Possession: Possession of pasture and open

ground will be upon closing. Possession of approximately 34 acres planted to wheat will be after 2017 wheat harvest. Purchaser will receive cash rent of \$75.00 per acre on the 34 acres of wheat.

Terms: 10% of purchase price as down payment day of auction, the balance will be due upon closing on or before May 12, 2017. Down payment will be escrowed with Clay Co. Abstract. Escrow fees will be split 50/50 between seller & purchaser. Title insurance will be used, the cost will be split 50/50 between seller & purchaser.

Thummel Real Estate & Auction LLC is acting as seller agent. All statements made day of auction take precedence over printed material. The farm will sold total dollars.

SPARLING FARMS, LLC

Auction Conducted By: THUMMEL REAL ESTATE & AUCTION LLC
785-738-0067 • www.thummelauction.com

LAND AUCTION

THURSDAY, APRIL 13 — 6:00 PM

Hanover American Legion — HANOVER, KANSAS

159.98 ACRES± WASHINGTON COUNTY LAND

For a VIRTUAL TOUR of this property visit www.MidwestLandandHome.com and see March 21 issue of GRASS & GRAIN!

PATRICIA & (THE LATE) JIM WIESE, SELLER

This property has highly productive soil types throughout and is currently 50% in crop production with an excellent opportunity to convert additional pasture acres to cropland. Contact me with any questions you may have on this property. Mark Uhlik - 785-325-2740

Midwest Land and Home

Mark Uhlik — Broker/Auctioneer - 785-325-2740
Jeff Dankenbring — Broker - 785-562-8386
www.MidwestLandandHome.com
When you want the Best, Call Midwest!

AUCTION

SATURDAY, APRIL 15 — 10:00 AM

NOTE: Real Estate to sell at 10:00 AM with Personal Property immediately following.
(Tractors & Equipment sell at approximately 12:00)
206 RAIL ROAD STREET — AGENDA, KANSAS 66930

HOME & ACREAGE

General Description: Modern wood frame 1 1/2 story, 1484 sq. ft. 4 bedroom home w/1 bath; main floor laundry; unfinished basement & cellar; on approx. 8.5 acres at NW corner of Agenda, KS. City water & sewer; 38x72 barn; 18x34 detached garage; 18x34 lean-to building.

RE Taxes: \$363.53 (2016 taxes)

Terms: 20% down payment day of sale, balance due

in 30 days or less upon delivery of a clear & merchantable title. Title insurance split 50/50. RE taxes prorated to day of closing. Contract closing costs split 50/50 between buyer and seller. Property sold in "AS IS" condition. All buyer inspections to be done previous to auction date at buyer's expense. Property sold w/no contingencies. Larry Lagasse Auction & RE represents sellers as sellers agents. For viewing contact Lance Lagasse, 785-262-1185.

TRACTORS & MACHINERY

WC Allis pulling tractor w/ weights, elec. start; WC Allis on rubber NF; Ford 8N tractor w/3 pt., repainted; AC WC tractor w/ corn picker on steel, no motor, corn picker, not complete; Ann Arbor Model 40 stationary baler; Baldwin pull type combine; dump rake; wheel weights; yard windmill; antique CAT Motor Grader; Yamaha gas golf cart w/new windshield.

ANTIQUES

Red Wing 2 gal. churn; 4 qt. churn; 1 qt. churn; wood organ stool; 2 serpentine front dressers; oak display case; combination safe; oak table w/3 leaves; 6 oak chairs; oak end table; bamboo end table; walnut magazine rack; cast iron: 1 large kettle, 3 small kettles; Dutch oven; skillet; 3 kraut cutters; 3 glass washboards; child's oak

chairs; flat top trunk; walnut parlor table; 24x24x40 combo safe; Jadeite Aladdin lamp; 12 kerosene lamps; 3 finger lamps; tobacco cutter & tins; treadle sewing machine; wood wall telephone; asst. sad irons; asst. Ruby Red; Carnival glass; green Depression; asst. painted plates; cups & saucers; 1922 M&W catalog; flash glass; 2 oval picture frames; German Swastika pin; hand tie rugs; match tins; celluloid rings; Fire King dishes; Agenda plates; 2 coffee grinders; cherry pitter; bee fogger; wood stirrups; Coors wood box; shucking pegs; wood rolling pins; arrowheads; wood piano bench; decanters; coal bucket; Marx dump truck; asst. toys; blue Mason jars; Scottie Dog cast iron bank; wood bow; 2 single shot 12 ga. shotguns; wood baby bed; large rooster

collection; asst. Avon; 7 photo albums; asst. hens on nest; asst. sad irons; asst. ornate picture frames; asst. painted & press glass; wood hames; spittoons; trivets; bird cage.

COINS

1897, 1885, 1880, 1904 silver dollars; 4 Eisenhower silver dollars; 7 Kennedy halves, 64-68; 56 Kennedy halves, '70s-'80s; Indian Head pennies, 1901, 05, 06; 2 Susan B. Anthony's; \$50 Confederate bill; 1937 Field & Stream; asst. yard figurines.

APPLIANCES & HOUSEHOLD Whirlpool refrigerator; elec. stove; WP washer; Kenmore dryer; Dirt Devil sweeper; Brother Serger vacuum; wood dinette table & chairs; Brother Serger sewing machine; Brother sewing machine; 4 elec. sewing machines; asst. household & misc.

AUCTION

TUESDAY, APRIL 11 — 11:00 AM

Auction will be held at the farm located from Lincoln, Kansas 7 miles West to 120 road, North 3 miles to Denmark, Ks, East 1 mile on Pike Dr, $\frac{1}{2}$ North on 130 Road.

TRACTORS, COMBINE & TRUCKS

2007 John Deere 7630 front wheel assist diesel tractor, IVT, 3 pt, weighted, w/JD 746 loader w/8'bucket & grapple, 2,600 hrs 140 hp; Very good condition; 1982 John Deere 4840 diesel tractor, cab, air, 3 pt, 18.4R42 tires w/duals, weighted, 10,000hrs; 1993 John Deere 9500 diesel combine bin extension, 4993 engine hrs, 3274 separator hrs; 1997 JD 925 flex head w/header trailer; 1995 JD 920 flex head w/header trailer; 1981 JD 224 header on homemade trailer; E-Z Trail 475 grain cart; Thor 6006 Conveyair grain vac; 1979 GMC 7000 2 ton gas truck, 8 cy, 4 sp, 2 sp, air conditioning, power steering, 16' bed w/steel floor, power up power down hoist, rollover tarp, 64,674 miles; 1976 Chevy C60 2 ton truck, 8 cy, 4 sp, 2

sp, power steering, 16' bed w/ steel floor, 40,070 miles; 1973 Chevy C60 2 ton truck, 8 cy, 4 sp, 2 sp, power steering, 16' bed w/steel floor, 34,274 miles; 1991 Dodge Ram $\frac{1}{2}$ ton 4 wheel drive pickup, 4 speed, 8 cy., rough; 1961 Chevrolet Apache 10 pickup 6 cy, 4 speed, w/hoist for restoration; 1993 White 500 bu pup trailer.

MACHINERY

1996 John Deere 30' 455 double disc drill; 1996 Kent 932696 series 2 plains plow 26' w/ treader & anhydrous; 1995 E-Z Trail 3400 gravity wagon w/ hydraulic auger; 1985 John Deere 24' 630 disc near new blades; Krause 24' 4904A disc near new blades; Sunflower 5232-23 cultivator; JD 960 25' cultivator; Beaver 3 pt. 8' blade; 8 yard 90E Soil Mover paddle scrapper; Degelman 10' dozer blade for JD 30-40; Sunflower RC 14 pull type chisel; Sun-

flower 21' disc; Flex King 5 x 5 V blade; Shubert 44' anhydrous knife; JD 15' tandem disc; A & L drill fill auger; JD 896A side delivery rake for parts.

CATTLE EQUIPMENT & OTHER

2008 Atchison 10 bale trailer; 1994 Diamond D 7' x 20' gooseneck covered stock trailer; 1981 Travalong 6' x 20' gooseneck covered stock trailer; 1977 Supreme 6' x 16' bumper hitch stock trailer; 4 wheel hay trailer; 2 cattle working chutes; Winkel 3 pt. bale spear; 3 pt. bale carrier; 3 pt. bale unroller; 5-8' round bottom bunks; round bale feeders; mineral tubs; T posts; electric fence posts & supplies; vet supplies; 44 big round prairie hay bales 2015; combine bin on 2 wheels; gas power washer; JD moisture tester; 18.4-38 clamp on duals; 2 trailers small items.

Check our web site for pictures at www.thummelauction.com. Stan & Connie are retiring, there are 2 small trailers, we will start on the cattle equipment. We will be on machinery at noon. The tractors & combine have been kept in the shed. Lunch by Denmark Hall Association.

STAN & CONNIE CRAWFORD • 785-658-5418

Auction Conducted By: THUMMEL REAL ESTATE & AUCTION LLC
785-738-0067

TERMS: Cash or check with proper ID. Lunch on grounds.

ELSIE M. LAWSON ESTATE, Seller

Website: www.lagasseauction-re.com • E-mail: lagasseauction@yahoo.com

AUCTION CONDUCTED BY LARRY LAGASSE AUCTION & REAL ESTATE
Lance Lagasse, 785-262-1185
Joe Odette, 785-243-4416

Online Auction — bidding closes April 6 (items located in Lehigh, KS) — York 2 cylinder John Deere collection, tractors, implements, lots of parts online at www.aumannauctions.com. Auctioneers: Aumann Auctions, Inc.

April 4 — 320 acres m/l Stafford County, KS land with center pivot irrigation held at St. John. Auctioneers: Gene Francis & Associates.

April 4 — Farm machinery North of Courtland for Matt & Angie Ehlers. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

April 5 — Tractors, combines, trucks, farm equipment, trailers, vehicles, irrigation equipment, shop equipment & more, antiques & collectibles near Garden City for Vern Wasinger. Auctioneers: Berning Auction.

April 6 — JD tractors, construction equipment, mowers, ATVs, tillage, grain handling, misc. tractors, Case IH tractors, Kubota tractors, Ford New Holland tractors, Brush Hogs, loaders, buckets, spears, planting, spraying & hay equipment at Pauls Valley, Oklahoma. Auctioneers: Self Equipment Auction.

April 8 — Furniture, appliances, antiques, art, guns, knives, ammo, tools & misc. household at Portis for Ray & Lu Willingham. Auctioneers: Wolters Auction & Realty.

April 8 — Tractors, dozer, combines & heads, trucks, stock trailer, skid steers & attachments, machinery at Atchison for Adrian Boldridge, Jr. Estate. Auctioneers: Chew Auction Service.

April 8 — Tractors, vehicles, trailers, farm machinery & equipment, ATVs, tools & misc. at Junction city for consignments. Auctioneers: Brown Real Estate & Auction Service, LLC.

April 8 — Antiques, household, shop, machinery, auto, misc., livestock equipment, iron wheels & more at Alma for Howard Neff. Auctioneers: Murray Auction & Realty.

April 8 — 100+ guns (collector Winchesters, Colts, Browning, Remington, Parker & others); wildlife prints, knives, shooting supplies & more at Beatrice, Nebraska for Leigh F. Coffin Estate & others. Auctioneers: Jurgens, Henrichs & Harden.

April 8 — Tractors, trucks, pickup, machinery, (2) 6 yr old geldings & more near Zenda for Tracy & Chris Green. Auctioneers: Hamm Auction & Real Estate, LLC.

April 8 — Farm equipment & related items at Junction City for Hartman Consignment Sale. Auctioneers: Brown Real Estate & Auctions Service, LLC.

April 8 — Construction equipment, building supplies, tools at Salina for Salina Building Systems Complete liquidation. Auctioneers: Wilson Realty & Auction Service.

April 8 — 251 acres selling in 3 tracts (all pasture), metal open building on one farm held at Parsons. Auctioneers: Chesnutt & Chesnutt.

April 8 — 89 acres on Rock Creek in Chase County held at Cottonwood Falls for property of Elizabeth "Betty" J. Pinkston & the late Phill Pinkston. Auctioneers: Griffin Real Estate & Auction Service, LC.

April 8 — Tools & misc., collectibles, appliances, furniture, household at

Abilene for Henry & "Babe" Van Decreek Estate. Auctioneers: Bob Kickhaefer.

April 8 — Semi trailers, automobiles, trailers, boats, fishing equipment, motors & misc. auto parts, power tools, misc. tools, antiques & collectibles at Winifred for Clayton Dick. Auctioneers: 5A Auction Service, Greg Askren.

April 8 — Real estate & collectibles, tools, salvage vehicles, horse drawn equipment & more held at Summerfield for Dale "Tinker" Robeson Trust. Auctioneers: Olmsteds & Sandstrom.

April 8 — Real estate (house), personal property & car at Wamego for Rita A. Dornbusch Estate. Auctioneers: Crossroads Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

April 8 — Tractors, equipment, 1800s vintage museum horse drawn/farm items, collectibles, tools & misc. at Lecompton for Mrs. A.K. "Charlene" Winter. Auctioneers: Elston Auctions.

April 8 — Complete diesel shop tools & equipment, complete line of MAC tools, welders, diesel truck A-frames, diesel truck parts, manuals, fluids, some antique tractors & parts, JD crawler & more held North of Abilene for Kenneth Fager Trust. Auctioneers: Reynolds Auction Service.

April 8 — 2 acres m/l with 50'x80' diesel shop (on Hwy K15 just North of Abilene) held North of Abilene for Kenneth Fager Trust. Auctioneers: Reynolds Real Estate & Auction.

April 8 — 200+ motorcycles & parts at Burr Oak for Doug & Caleb Frasier. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

April 9 — 150+ guns, long rifles & shotguns from Civil War era to modern, old pistols, ammo, gun safes, deer antlers & more at Ottawa for Tom Highberger personal firearms collection. Auctioneers: Eastern Kansas Auction Barn.

April 9 — Machinery, livestock, equipment, vehicles, lawn, garden, tools & misc., household & antiques & more at Centralia for consignments. Auctioneers: Aeschliman, Burdick, Cline, Deters, Wilhelm.

April 10 — 100 acres m/l of northern Riley County Farmland, native pasture & wildlife habitat held at Randolph for Wendell & Brenda Anderson Trust. Auctioneers: Cline Realty & Auction, LLC.

April 10 — Cloud County Real Estate held at Miltonvale for Michael & Bari Dorman. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

April 10 — Cloud County Real Estate held at Concordia for Tony Studt & Terry Studt. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

April 11 — Tractors, combine, sprayer & equipment at Newton for Ron & Carol Becker. Auctioneers: Van Schmidt.

April 11 — Prime grassland, homesite real estate, 72 acres m/l native grassland held at Wamego for Howard Neff. Auctioneers: Murray Auction & Realty.

April 11 — Farm items, 7630 JD tractor, 9500 JD combine, trucks, machinery at Denmark for Stan & Connie Crawford. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

April 12 — 167 acres m/l Clay County land held at Wakefield for Sparling Farms, LLC. Auctioneers:

Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

April 13 — Real Estate held at Salina for Salina Building Systems. Auctioneers: Wilson Realty & Auction Service.

April 13 — 159.98 acres m/l of Washington County land held at Hanover for Patricia & (the late) Jim Wiese. Auctioneers: Midwest Land & Home, Mark Uhlik, Jeff Dankenbring.

April 15 — Real estate (home & acreage), tractors, machinery, antiques, coins, appliances & household at Agenda for Elsie M. Lawson Estate. Auctioneers: Larry Lagasse Auction & Real Estate.

April 15 — Antiques & collectibles, furniture, cast iron lawn furniture, glassware, pictures & more at Abilene for Byrna Elliott Estate. Auctioneers: Ron Shivers Realty & Auction Co.

April 15 — 2 bedroom older home on corner lot, tractors, farm equipment, appliances, furniture, household, tools, collectibles & more at Linn for Kolars Family. Auctioneers: Midwest Land & Home, Mark Uhlik, Jeff Dankenbring.

April 15 — Real estate (5-acre farm homesite with farm house, metal shed, barn & tools sheds), farm machinery & tools, antiques, collectibles, household, small collection of coins & more at Chase for Coldwater Family Revocable Trust. Auctioneers: Stroh's Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

April 15 — Winchester rifle collection, Winchester rifle early Model 70s, rare models & calibers, also model 61s, 62s & 52s; other guns, knife collection, advertising items & more at Abilene for Dennis Rider - Lease Duckwall. Auctioneers: Reynolds Auction Service.

April 15 — Real estate & personal property at Burlingame for Derek & Patricia Parks. Auctioneers: Miller & Midyett Real Estate, Wischropp Auctions.

April 15 — Possible antiques & collectibles, household, glassware, toys, shop & hand tools, power equipment, equipment for small tractors & misc. at Salina for Edythe Long. Auctioneers: Bacon Auction Company.

April 15 — Huge Blacksmith (anvils, blocks, forges, blowers, etc.), antique & new metal cutting & grinding equipment) auction at Valley Center for John Timmerkamp Estate. Auctioneers: Van Schmidt.

April 21 — 5,497.10 m/l acres Wabaunsee County Flint Hills ranch offered in 2 tracts & combined held at Council Grove for Eagle Bar Ranch. Auctioneers: J.P. Weigand & Sons, Inc.

April 22 — Real estate & personal property at Waterville for Beth Krasny Estate. Auctioneers: Olmsteds & Sandstrom.

April 22 — Minneapolis real estate & personal property at Minneapolis. Auctioneers: Wilson Realty & Auction Service.

April 22 — Real Estate: 1 1/2 story 3 bedroom home held at Abilene for Astra Bank. Auctioneers: Black & Company Realtors, Ron Shivers auctioneer.

April 22 — Tractor, vehicles, equipment, livestock equipment, tools, collectibles, household & misc. at Oskaloosa for Gaylord & Phoebe Schneck. Auction-

eers: Elston Auctions.

April 22 — Farms tractors & equipment, pickup trucks, gooseneck trailers & ATVs, livestock equipment, brome hay, shop power, hand tools & misc. at Wells for Chuck Johnson Estate. Auctioneers: Bacon Auction Co.

April 22 — 165 guns at Salina. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

April 22 & 23 — selling the 22nd: Mowers, tools, collectibles & more; selling the 23rd: antique & modern furniture, pottery, glassware, collectibles, collection of bells & dolls, Baldwin elec. organ & more held at Hope for Alice Dittman Estate. Auctioneers: Bob Kickhaefer.

April 23 — Toys, furniture & collectibles at Salina for Ray Sherwood. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

April 27 — 137 acres m/l Riley County land held at Leonardville. Auctioneers: Gene Francis & Associates Real Estate Brokers & Auctioneers.

April 29 — Dozer, machinery, antiques & household south of Jamestown for Bryant Thurston Estate. Auctioneers: Larry La-

Grass & Grain, April 4, 2017

gasse Auction & Real Estate.

April 29 — Real estate, tractors, equipment, 4-wheeler, collector car, pickup & more at Paola for Estate of Mr. & Mrs. Carl Tebesch. Auctioneers: Dave Webb, Webb Realty, Webb & Associates Auctions & Appraisals.

April 29 — Coins at Emporia. Auctioneers: Swift-N-Sure Auctions & Real Estate.

April 29 — 169 acres m/l Jackson County offered in 10 tracts held at Hoyt for John Waller. Auctioneers: Cline Realty & Auction, LLC.

April 29 — Farms in Clay & Cloud County held at Clifton for The Marvis Hardesty Trust. Auctioneers: Raymond Bott Realty & Auction.

April 29 — Real estate, vehicles, collectibles & household at Clifton for The Marvis Hardesty Trust. Auctioneers: Raymond Bott Realty & Auction.

April 29 — Trucks, collector car, tools East 24-81 Junction for George Larson Estate. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

April 30 — Signs, advertising & collectibles at Sali-

na for a private collection. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

April 30 — Pontiac G6, Mills slot machine, beer signs & collectibles, high quality household at Junction City. Auctioneers: Reynolds Auction Service.

May 6 — Real Estate, 7 acres w/a 1990 27x52 double wide and a 30x40 insulated shop, antique JD tractors, Model As, Bs, Ds & Rs, old JD & misc. farm equipment, shop equipment, firearms & household at McPherson for Tom & Donna Lyman Estate. Auctioneers: 5A Auction Service, Greg Askren.

May 27 — Abilene High School Carpentry House held at Abilene for USD 435. Auctioneers: Reynolds Auction Service.

May 27 — 150 crock collectibles at Salina for individual collection. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

May 28 — Halloween, toys, collectibles at Salina for individual collection. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

May 29 — Country store items & collectibles at Salina for individual collection. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

AUCTION

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2017 — 9:31 AM

Sterl Hall, 619 N. Rogers — ABILENE KANSAS



1994 LOWE Fishing Boat, motor and trailer. 50hp 2 stroke Johnson motor, trolling motor, 2 live wells, radio w/speakers, 2 fish finders with boat cover.



ANTIQUE FURNITURE

Cannon Ball Full size poster bed with box springs & mattress, walnut 3 drawer dresser with mirror and two attached hankie boxes, Lincoln rocker, round 42" oak table with 4 matching chairs, nightstand with 2 side towel bars, nice smaller size glass & oak store display case, small tabletop oak & glass store display case, English Windsor chair, very unique armed spindle chair, several trunks, tiny one door cupboard on legs, child's pressback rocker, oak armed desk chair on rollers, single round back chair.

ANTIQUES

McCoy/Shawnee/Hull pottery, spongeware crock bowls, blue band crock bowls, spongeware pitcher, other pitchers, yellowware bowls, Fireking Tulip nesting bowls, several dolls including cupie dolls and a Effanbee bride and groom dolls, small wicker baby doll buggy, kerosene lamps, scotty dog collection, child's irons, baby shoes, cresolene vapor lamps, candy containers, fruit jars, a HUGE set of Currier & Ives dishes along with accessory pieces, green and pink depression dishes, ruby red dishes, Hall autumn leaf dishes, flow blue dishes, lots of single plates, windmill dishes, crack jack prizes, post cards, costume jewelry, Watt apple bowls, salt & peppers, school

bells, wall pocket vases, child's dishes sets, wash boards, coffee grinder, blue & white salt jars, quilts, graniteware, lots of pictures and picture frames, wagon wheel, lots of lamp parts, 2 large pitcher and bowl sets, brass/glass hanging lamp, polished brass long neck gone w/ the wind lamp with round globe (electrified), lots of Indian pictures framed, bookends, lone wolf pictures, wood hanging shaving mirror, several dressers jars and perfume bottles, piggy banks, hen on nest jars, tooth pick holders, corn pitchers, salt jars, spice boxes, mirrored towel bar, polished brass lamp with glass shade (electrified), and much more to unpack.

FURNITURE

Like NEW traditional couch, 2 matching wingback chairs, early American style couch, cloth recliner, 2 other wingback chairs, full size maple pinecone poster bed, 20" flat screen tv, console tv, large glass double globed lamp, Early American style recliner, cedar hope chest, several side tables, 4 cafe chairs, small drop leaf table with 4 chairs, 6' storage cabinet, wood wine cupboard, white tiled table with 3 chairs, octagon table, small oak medicine cabinet with mirror, white wicker mirror (free standing), breakfast nook table, Queen size bedroom set, vintage drop leaf



HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Lots of bedding, pillows, throw rugs, lots Christmas items, costume jewelry, wall clocks, dishes, silverware, knives, bowls, corningware, glasses, bowls, electric jar lid opener, electric can opener, toaster, dog crates, shower stool, walkers, wheel chairs, electric heater with blower, lots of sheer curtains, several alarm clocks, lots of books, fireplace tool set.

Large concrete deer, ornate wrought iron bench & table & chair, wrought iron patio table and 4 matching chairs, wrought iron plant stand, wrought iron wheel barrel, wood porch bench, cracker barrel rocker, 2 matching wrought iron chairs, large insulated smoker made from steaming oven, small working windmill, hand well pump, statue.

OTHER ITEMS

Bottled Water Cooler, 1970 Chevrolet grill, oak toilet topper, assorted oak vanities with tops and facets, brush guard for 1989 Chevy Pickup, 2 large metal wardrobes, many shelving units, several metal display racks, several sizes of TVs.

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Kansas Department of Agriculture announces 2017 specialty crop block grant opportunity

The Kansas Department of Agriculture is accepting applications for the 2017 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. Funds for the program are awarded to the agency by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service. The funds are in turn granted to projects and organiza-

tions that work to improve the specialty crop industry. The purpose of the specialty crop program is to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. Specialty crops are defined by the USDA as "fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops, including floriculture."

This opportunity supports the KDA's mission of providing an environment that enhances and encourages economic growth of the agriculture industry in Kansas. The Agricultural Marketing Service reviews each application. Approved states receive an estimated base amount plus an amount

based on the average of the most recent available value of specialty crop cash receipts and the acreage of specialty crop production in the state. In 2016, Kansas received \$283,492.76 for the grant program. In 2017 it is expected that Kansas will receive approximately \$295,000.00.

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program applications will be evaluated by a team of external reviewers. The team will rate proposals on their ability to successfully promote specialty crops in Kansas and make a positive impact on the Kansas economy. Those recommendations will be submitted to the Kansas Secretary of Agriculture, who will make the final awards.

Applications are due to KDA no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 12, 2017. For more information, please download the 2017 application from the website at www.agriculture.ks.gov/specialty-crop.



BAXTER BLACK

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

High-Horned Red Cow's Calf

I have calved a lot of heifers in my life... thousands. All of us who have that type of experience know that after the sweat and strain, the slick and sticky, the hope and pull, the grunt and sigh, when the wet little creature plops on the ground, sometimes there is a moment that time stands still. A second, or two or five, we stare, our world suspended, waiting for a sign.

Then the new baby sniffs, or blinks, or sneezes, or wiggles an ear, and at that moment it feels as though a burden has been lifted from our shoulders. We did it. We did it again. Just regular common people like us, engaged in that age-old profession of stockman, have participated in a miracle; life being passed from one generation to the next.

It is no small thing to be a part of and every time it happens, it renews us. The miracle never diminishes. As urbanization inexorably isolates people from the land, fewer and fewer humans are able to participate in this ancient experience. It is our loss.

We have finished calving at my place, none of the cows needed help delivering, for which I'm thankful.

But each new little critter trailing after his mama or kickin' up his heels makes ya smile.

Last week the high-horned red cow finally calved. Baby was solid red like mama. I sat there the next day a'horseback and studied him for a few minutes. Long enough to figure out it was a bull calf and getting' plenty to eat. Satisfied, I swung away and started back through the mesquite on a cow trail. I heard a mama bawlin' and looked back to see that it was the high-horned red cow. I swept the horizon for her calf, then looked down. There he was right behind my horse's hind leg, trailin' along with us. I stopped. The little calf bumped into my stirrup. He looked confused. He could hear his mama but something didn't smell right. I reached down and patted his head. He looked up at me, as if to say, "What are you doin' here?"

About that time my dog stuck his nose to the baby's tail. He jumped like a deer, straight-legged and trotted back toward his mama in his ungainly tryin'-out-his-new-legs kinda gait. It was pretty funny. The dog and I couldn't help but laugh.

Study shows FCCP tags provide added value in marketplace

The Red Angus Feeder Calf Certification Program (FCCP) has long been recognized as a leader in the beef industry and university research has now quantified the added value this program provides for beef producers. In a recent study completed by Kansas State University, FCCP-tagged Red Angus calves marketed through Superior Livestock Auction's video sales sold for significantly higher prices. From 2013 to 2016, FCCP-enrolled Red Angus calves sold for \$3.38 more per hundredweight than non-tagged, Red Angus-influenced calves that were only identified by breed description. This equated to more than \$20 per head on a 600-lb. feeder calf.

Gary Fike, Red Angus Association of America director of commercial marketing, said that this third-party research verifies the value delivered by the FCCP program. "This is real-world data. The marketplace determines value, and that added value is determined by the assurances that the FCCP-enrolled calves provide," said Fike. "Previous data from Superior has shown that Red Angus calves command higher prices than other breed types. Now we know that within the realm of Red Angus-influenced calves, certification of breed type, source, and age, extends that value even further via FCCP. Buyers are willing to pay more for that guarantee."

The study included a total of 1,412 lots of beef calves representing 131,975 head to quantify the effect of Red Angus age- and source-verification programs on the sale price of calves selling through 94 Superior Livestock Auction video sales from 2013 through 2016.

Now 23 years old, this USDA-verified program continues to be popular with farmers, ranchers, and cattle feeders. The oft-called "Yellow Tag" program continues to set records for growth. In 2016, calf enrollments increased 27 percent compared to the previous year. Double-digit growth is continuing in 2017, with February enrollments being the highest in history for a single month, with 35,700 tags issued. FCCP enrollment is free and the only cost is for the 99¢ dangle tag or \$3 EID-dangle tag combination.

Cattlemen using Red Angus bulls can call to enroll their calf crop by answering a few simple management questions. Contact Chessie Mitchell, tag program coordinator, at chessie@redangus.org, or call (940) 387-3502 Ext. 2, to enroll in the program.

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Visit www.EagleBarRanchAuction.com for Flyer, Video, and Photos.

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