





# United Country Real Estate gives back to ranchers affected by Kansas wildfires

Two United Country Real Estate brokers spent the week of spring break with nine FFA students helping to rebuild fences damaged by the Starbuck Wildfires in southwest Kansas. Ron Hinrichsen of United Country Real Estate/Heartland Realty & Auction in Wamego, spearheaded the effort after seeing the devastation on social media.

"I started watching things on Facebook and how devastated people were. These ranchers lost so many miles of their fencing, lost their livestock and so much more," said Hinrichsen. "I raise cattle, too, and I couldn't imagine what they must be going through. I felt the need to help."

Hinrichsen contacted the local agriculture teacher in Wamego and had her contact all of the local FFA advisors in surrounding areas. The advisors connected with students who were willing to help. There were nine FFA students who offered their time from five different communities in Kansas: Westmoreland, Onaga, St. George, Wamego and Effingham. The students spent most of their one week spring break vacation pulling out damaged fencing and laying wire.

"These ranchers were so grateful that these kids took time out of their spring break to help them out," said Hinrichsen. "The kids were so dedicated. We worked in hard conditions. It was a hot, windy and filthy



Nine FFA students from five communities spent most of spring break helping to replace fences on ranches devastated by the recent wildfires. *Courtesy photos*

working environment. But they never complained and barely took breaks. They worked their tails off and it is just unbelievable what they were capable of."

In three days, the students and three adult supervisors were able to work through ten miles worth of fencing. They only took breaks for meals. In order to feed and house the students, Hinrichsen called on fellow United Country Real Estate broker Dave Rose, in Coldwater, who had a lake house in the affected area. He provided a place for the students to stay and helped raise funding for supplies. An agent in his office also provided a meal for the students.

"Ron mentioned the project to me and I figured if they were coming out our



Pulling out damaged fencing and laying wire were the activities that filled the days of these young people.

way, we'd give them a place to stay and a warm meal," said Rose. "These kids were absolutely wonderful and we could barely keep up with them. I could tell that they just genuinely wanted to help people."

Hinrichsen and Rose say the project is far from over. The ranchers still need a lot of supplies and manpower to get their operations back to fully functioning. Donations are currently being accepted to help fund their efforts. If you'd like to donate, contact the Ashland Community Foundation or the Kansas Livestock Association.

United Country Real Estate is a partner with FFA. For more information about this project or how you can help, contact Ron Hinrichsen at 785-770-0222. For more information about United Country, visit [www.UnitedCountry.com](http://www.UnitedCountry.com).

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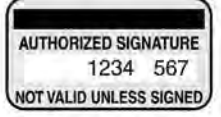
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# National Pork Board investigates new trade opportunities in Mexico

With Mexico's hunger for U.S. pork continuing to grow, members of the National Pork Board spent March 13-18 in Mexico City building trade relations. The delegation invested its time immersing itself in Mexico, which is one of America's most important export markets. During the visit, the group emphasized the safety and reliability of the U.S. pork supply.

"Our visit to Mexico was eye-opening. As board members, we were able to witness why Mexico is such an important trading partner," said Jan Archer, National Pork Board president and a North Carolina pig farmer. "The average Mexican family spends 30 to 40 percent of its income on food, so they appreciate the ability to access safe, nutritious and affordable U.S. pork."

The delegation received a warm welcome and were encouraged and enthused about the future of trade with Mexico. Within the next five years, economists predict Mexico may become the largest market for all U.S. goods, surpassing both Canada and the European Union.

During the week, board members saw firsthand the market opportunity and benefit of expanding trade with Mexico. The key objectives of the trip were to discuss and define areas of mutual interest, to extend appreciation to Mexico's trade industry for the high volume of U.S. pork purchased and to emphasize the reliability and availability of U.S. pork and the next steps needed to support expanding trade.

In 2016, Mexico was again the No. 1 importer of U.S. pork in terms of volume. Mexico imported more than 730,000 metric tons of U.S. pork last year. In terms of value, Mexico was again No. 2 at \$1.4 billion. In January 2017, which is the most recent data available, Mexico became No. 1 in both volume and value. The U.S. accounts for more than 90 percent of the total pork imported to Mexico.

At a high-level, the trip agenda included opportunities for board members to:

Meet with the USDA's Foreign Ag Service to understand Mexico's economy and its current political environment.

Learn about new pork product development and innovation.

Visit places where pork is sold and marketed to Mexican consumers. Those outlets include high-end club stores, regional supermarkets, fast-casual restaurants and a traditional wet market.

Meet with Mexico's largest retail chain that sells and processes almost exclusively U.S. pork and hear about

## Wade Weber begins leadership of Kansas State University's 4-H Youth Development Program

As Wade Weber takes his place as the leader of the state's premier youth-development organization, he'll be walking familiar ground.

With a master's degree in counseling and student development from Kansas State University, Weber's new job marks a return to Manhattan for him after leading 4-H youth development programs with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach for the last seven years.

He also holds a graduate certificate from K-State in academic advising and a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies from Central College in Pella, Iowa.

Rooted in the Cooperative Extension System, 4-H is the nation's largest youth development organization. It serves every county and parish in the U.S. through a network of 110 public universities, including Kansas State University. Young people learn by doing in 4-H. They complete hands-on projects in areas such as health, science, agriculture and civic engagement, in a positive environment where they receive guidance from adult mentors and are encouraged to become leaders.

Nearly 78,000 young people participated in such activities across Kansas last year, aided by 10,999 adult and youth volunteers in partnership with local extension agents who, collectively, work in all 105 Kansas counties.

At Iowa State, Weber's innovative approach grew six county programs to a ten-year high in 4-H youth engagement, club membership and volunteerism. During the last five years, he provided increasing administrative leadership,

supervision and mentoring at the state level in addition to providing programmatic leadership to 30 county 4-H programs and agents in northern Iowa.

Weber has more than 20 years of supervisory, development and volunteer coaching experience. He served as the state president of the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents in Iowa in 2014 and was recognized nationally and across Iowa with innovation awards in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and agriculture. Since 2011 he has served on the Northwest Iowa STEM Advisory Council, leading efforts to increase STEM awareness and coordination to benefit youths. In 2011, he launched a now-thriving FIRST LEGO League robotics program in northwest Iowa and pioneered day-long STEM festivals with several other Iowa colleges. Each festival reached hundreds of youths.

Launching Precision Agriculture and Animal Science Days at the Northwest and Northeast Iowa Research farms helped engage hundreds of high school students in career exploration and innovative problem solving. Weber's leadership increased offerings in Special Interest (SPIN) areas such as creative arts, communication, filmmaking, animal agriculture and STEM.

He also started a new 4-H robotics club in Spirit Lake, Iowa, and served as a 4-H volunteer in that capacity from 2011-2016.

Weber served previously in Manhattan as a local and multi-state director for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA prior to his time at Iowa State.

His wife Caryn, their three sons and one daugh-

ter will move back to Manhattan in June, after the school year ends.

"We have tremendous affinity for the area, great friends across Kansas and have many significant family memories and milestones in Kansas," Weber said.

"At the end of the day, I'm part of the K-State family - always have been and always will be." As much as he enjoyed and excelled in his work at Iowa State, "to serve the Kansas 4-H and K-State family in this capacity was just an opportunity I did not want to pass up."

Daryl Buchholz, associate director of Extension and Applied Research at K-State, said, "Wade impressed us all with his vision, leadership capacity and true passion for furthering and expanding the 4-H Youth Development experiences for youth. He also brings a wealth of energy, skills, and commitment to 'make the best better' for Kansas youth and families through K-State Research and Extension's 4-H programs."

Weber said his intent is for Kansas 4-H Youth Development to be known as an organization that does four things exceptionally well: engaging young people, empowering volunteers, equipping professionals and expanding partnerships.

"I believe youth development is boiled down to growing two primary characteristics and skills: Being a problem-solver and getting along with people," he said. "If you can do those two things you'll be guaranteed a job - and if you can't do either of those two things well, it may be very difficult for you to retain any job."

Weber stressed the importance of creating learning opportunities for young people where adults show-

case their own passions but also model learning about new subjects. By going beyond their own experiences and truly engaging with young people in theirs, adults become positive role models for critical thinking and expanding exploration.

"One of the most powerful experiences I have seen in 4-H youth development is when a young person says, 'You're really for me and my learning, instead of just trying to make me for you and what you love,'" Weber said.

"In that moment, that young person knows you're going to learn with them about the things that they are interested in instead of only being interested in things that our volunteers already know.

"When that happens, confidence, trust and persistence in those interest areas expands exponentially."

Such deeper-level mentorship and exploration helps young people expand or refine their interests as they get older, "which is why community partnership development and specifically our partnership with Kansas State University is so vital and critical," Weber said.

"Partnerships allow a youth's learning journey to persist and grow beyond what that initial 4-H experience can provide."

Weber said he is eager to visit Kansas communities and local 4-H programs to listen for what Kansas 4-H youths and volunteers are most proud of and what they see as opportunities and challenges.

"4-H lives at the local level," he said, "and I am passionate about connecting with community leaders to collaborate in helping 4-H prepare today's youth for the leadership challenge of tomorrow."







# Schwieterman Market Outlook

A marketing commentary by Bret Crofts

The two most important figures from Friday's reports were the corn and soybean acreage estimates. The 89.996 million acres of corn and 89.48 million acres of soybeans will mostly likely be used in the May supply and demand report, which will be our first look at the new crop balance sheets. So, for the next few months we will be operating under the assumption that we are going to have a sharp reduction in corn acreage and re-

cord-high soybean acreage. These acreage figures will set the tone of trading for the time being and the tone that it sets will be negative for the soybeans and fairly supportive for the corn.

As far as the soybeans go, even with this high acreage figure we may not actually produce as many soybeans as we did last year. Using a yield of 48, which would be tied for the second highest ever, production would be less than a year ago. On the

other hand, if we have "normal weather" in the Corn Belt, soybean ending stocks will almost certainly rise. We are going to have to have some sort of weather problem that hurts yield to have any chance of drawing our stocks levels down to levels that would be considered bullish.

On the other hand, it will be almost impossible for corn production to exceed last year's record high. If corn yield comes in at 170,

wheat will be supported by the strength in the corn and spreading against the soybeans. Other than that the wheat is oversold and due for a corrective bounce, but for the time being we have to look at a bounce as a selling opportunity.

The soybeans are looking pretty rough on the charts. The July contract is now testing the \$9.50 area as support. \$9.40 is a likely downside target at this point, and if that fails we are back to looking for \$8.80. Demand is still strong, which may help the market, but when we see the level of bear spreading in the soybeans that we have seen lately, it is hard to get excited about trying to pick a bottom. We have plenty of beans now, and with our acreage figure we will continue to have plenty of beans for quite some time.

The cattle market ran out of steam, at least for a little while. The cash cattle market looked like it was going to be lower, but there had been very little activity as of Friday afternoon. The feeder cattle market quit its rapid rise as well, so the feeder futures ran out of incentive to keep moving higher. Right now we should look at the weakness as correc-

tive in nature, and the long-term up trend is still intact. Until we see the June live cattle below \$108 I'm not going to be very concerned.

*Schwieterman Marketing, L.L.C. specializes in risk management and cash grain and livestock marketing plans. For information on the markets or our marketing service you can contact Bret Crofts at 888-437-9131 or bret@swbell.net.*

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## Farm Bureau praises recent EPA Chlorpyrifos decision

American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) president Zippy Duvall applauded Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administrator Scott Pruitt for rejecting a petition that would have eliminated the use of chlorpyrifos in agriculture.

"Farmers nationwide depend on chlorpyrifos in managing their crops," Duvall said on March 30. "It is widely and safely used for a wide range of crops, including alfalfa, citrus, vegetables, soybeans, almonds and others. It also protects

hundreds of thousands of acres of grass seed production, where it controls aphids, cutworms and other pests. As USDA has noted, chlorpyrifos has been used as a part of environmentally friendly IPM (integrated pest management) programs for nearly 50 years."

Duvall noted that the chemical is still subject to registration review and any concerns about its safe use can be addressed in that process.

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# Sell At St. Marys

Sell Or Buy Cattle By Auction STARTING TIME 10:30 AM Tuesdays

<p><b>We sold 1124 cattle March 28. Steer and heifer calves were in good demand at steady prices. Feeder steers and heifers were steady to \$3.00 higher. Cows and bulls were steady.</b></p>			
<p><b>STEER &amp; BULL CALVES</b></p> <p>5 blk str 380 @ 193.00 5 blk/char str 415 @ 190.50 3 blk/red str 435 @ 188.00 9 blk/sim str 408 @ 187.00 2 blk str 443 @ 185.00 4 blk str 448 @ 184.00 3 blk/bwf str 375 @ 182.00 2 blk str 383 @ 179.00 2 bwf str 450 @ 179.00 2 blk bulls 285 @ 179.00 4 x-bred str/bulls 473 @ 173.00 2 red str 478 @ 172.00 22 blk/bwf str 457 @ 171.00 9 blk/bwf str 517 @ 171.00 50 blk/bwf str 526 @ 170.50 2 blk str 438 @ 170.00 10 blk/red str 542 @ 170.00 20 blk str 525 @ 169.50 3 blk/bwf str 532 @ 167.00 3 blk/red str 532 @ 167.00 2 x-bred str 545 @ 167.00 3 blk bulls 490 @ 165.00 2 blk/bwf str/bulls 508 @ 165.00 2 bwf bulls 515 @ 160.00 2 blk/bwf bulls 535 @ 158.00</p> <p><b>STOCKER &amp; FEEDER STEERS</b> 3 blk str 557 @ 164.00</p>	<p>4 blk str 550 @ 150.00 5 blk str 634 @ 146.50 2 blk/bwf str 630 @ 145.50 7 blk/red str 629 @ 142.00 17 blk/char str 790 @ 133.50 3 blk str 660 @ 133.00 63 blk str 893 @ 132.35 61 blk/char str 860 @ 131.85 27 blk str 828 @ 131.50 3 blk str 702 @ 130.00 60 blk/char str 902 @ 129.50 5 blk/red str 809 @ 126.00 4 blk/char str 900 @ 126.00 61 blk/char str 924 @ 124.25 63 mix str 930 @ 123.50 53 blk str 1024 @ 121.50 60 blk/red str 971 @ 121.00 60 mix str 955 @ 120.75 4 blk/bwf str 1019 @ 119.00</p> <p><b>HEIFER CALVES</b> 5 bwf/red hfr 361 @ 168.00 8 blk hfr 449 @ 168.00 4 blk hfr 436 @ 167.00 10 blk/bwf hfr 436 @ 167.00 4 blk hfr 466 @ 167.00 10 blk/bwf hfr 436 @ 167.00 4 blk hfr 466 @ 167.00 7 blk/red hfr 450 @ 166.00</p>	<p>2 blk/bwf hfr 423 @ 165.00 2 blk hfr 425 @ 163.00 3 blk hfr 373 @ 162.00 4 blk hfr 484 @ 158.00 2 blk hfr 443 @ 156.00 2 blk/red hfr 450 @ 155.00 9 blk/char hfr 527 @ 153.50 3 blk/red hfr 438 @ 149.00 3 blk hfr 535 @ 149.00 3 blk/bwf hfr 543 @ 147.00 2 blk/bwf hfr 523 @ 144.00 2 blk hfr 508 @ 139.00</p> <p><b>STOCKER &amp; FEEDER HEIFERS</b> 3 blk/bwf hfr 590 @ 134.50 2 blk hfr 598 @ 134.00 4 blk hfr 596 @ 130.50 4 blk hfr 618 @ 130.50 7 x-bred hfr 672 @ 127.50 4 blk hfr 591 @ 125.50 62 blk/bwf hfr 771 @ 125.25 2 blk hfr 695 @ 124.00 5 blk/red hfr 720 @ 124.00 62 blk/red hfr 812 @ 121.75 7 blk hfr 751 @ 121.50 6 blk/red hfr 847 @ 121.00 4 blk/char hfr 715 @ 120.50 16 blk/char hfr 713 @ 120.00</p>	<p>2 blk hfr 805 @ 119.00 4 blk/bwf hfr 1169 @ 114.00</p> <p><b>COWS &amp; HEIFERETTES</b> 1 blk hfrt 1075 @ 119.00 2 blk hfrts 1018 @ 117.00 1 sim hfrt 1190 @ 112.00 1 blk hfrt 1275 @ 111.00 1 sim hfrt 1335 @ 109.00 1 blk hfrt 825 @ 100.00 1 blk cow 1630 @ 70.00 1 blk cow 1615 @ 69.50 1 blk cow 1590 @ 69.00 1 blk cow 1560 @ 68.50 1 bwf cow 1520 @ 68.00 1 blk cow 1355 @ 67.50 1 blk cow 1550 @ 67.00 1 blk cow 1310 @ 66.00 1 blk cow 1095 @ 62.00 1 red cow 1200 @ 60.50 1 blk cow 1140 @ 60.00 1 blk cow 1295 @ 57.50 1 bwf cow 1040 @ 56.00 1 char cow 1205 @ 55.00</p> <p><b>COW/CALF PAIRS</b> 1 blk cow/cf @ 1110.00 1 blk cow/cf @ 800.00</p>
<p><b>BRED HEIFERS</b> 1 blk hfr @ 1075.00 1 char hfr @ 1000.00</p>		<p><b>BULLS</b> 1 blk bull 2420 @ 81.00</p>	

**CONSIGNMENTS FOR APRIL 4, 2017:**  
*Cows moved back a week due to rain & mud*

- 6 blk cows, short solid bred for fall calves
- 45 blk steers & heifers, 450-500 lbs., vaccinated
- 20 black heifers, 650-700 lbs.
- 20 black steers & heifers, 800-900 lbs.
- 74 Angus steers & heifers, 700-800 lbs.
- 65 black steers, 825-850 lbs.
- 65 black Charolais steers, 850-875 lbs.
- 120 black Charolais steers, 875-900 lbs.
- 60 black Charolais steers, 875-900 lbs.

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**CONSIGNMENTS FOR APRIL 11, 2017:**

- 20 blk cows, 4 yrs old, short solid with calves
- 2 blk maine bulls, 3 yrs old, tric. semen tested
- 43 blk str & hfrs, weaned, vaccinated

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