

# Rotational grazing part of stewardship plan on Plum Creek Ranch

By Donna Sullivan,  
Editor

For Cowley County rancher Mike Marker, stewardship is the basic tenet of his business philosophy. “Stewardship isn’t taking care of a cow the best,” he told attendees of the recent Kansas Forage and Grassland Council Winter Conference. “Stewardship is taking care of a cow in line with what is best. Somewhere we have to really look at, are we busy or are we efficient? Are we about business or are we just treading water going nowhere?”

In keeping with his focus on stewardship, Marker and his family have implemented a multi-faceted rotational grazing program. Everything from the disposition of his cattle to his stocking rate works in tandem to achieve his goals of good stewardship and profitability. For him, it’s about making his cattle and forage work for him, not vice versa.

Marker grew up on the family homestead, attended Kansas State University, then came home to the ranch.

“Dad and Mom did a good job being faithful with what they had, which enabled us to be able to step into it,” he said.

When yearling programs stalled out, it opened an opportunity to lease grass for cow/calf pairs and that was the direction they headed. Their journey into rotational grazing was driven by a drought in the late 1990s, when they had a group of cows in several pastures like they’d always done. “I told dad, ‘it looks like they’re just eating everything. Let’s put them in one group and rest some of this and see what we do this year,’” Marker recalled. We had grass like what we do in a typical



With assistance from his son Nathan on the front row, Mike Marker described his rotational grazing practices and the benefits he’s seen during the Kansas Forage and Grassland Council annual meeting in Salina.

year. That just changed the way we do things.”

“Everything I’m going to share isn’t really what I knew going in,” he admitted. “It’s what we’ve learned as we stepped through it. We’ve still got a lot to learn, but there’s some real benefits that I think we can glean and apply.”

One of those benefits is lower cow costs. Marker pointed out that in 1986 the cow cost per year for the average cow/calf operator was under \$400. In 2016 it’s over \$850. While some calves brought \$1,000 this year, the average price of a spring calf last fall was about \$700, spelling around a \$150 loss per head.

He pointed to inefficiencies, such as feeding cows by a gate, that could easily be changed and save the producer money. Hay wastage was something he focused on as well, citing typical waste of 25-45% in free-choice fed hay. Along with the waste is the bacteria that grows in wet hay, increasing the incidence of scours or other sickness in

baby calves.

Calm dispositions in his cattle are also a priority, and he cited a \$27 increase in the value of a calf at weaning when they are calm. “You combine cow costs that you can bring down and increase the income side, and you get a double benefit,” he explained. Marker uses Red Angus cows and Charolais bulls to achieve the disposition and performance he wants. The calm dispositions also work in their favor when it’s time to move the cattle through the rotations. “I go in and call them and they start heading for the gate,” he described.

How do you start? “You look at what you’ve got available,” Marker said. “Because if you don’t have it, you can’t do it.”

In describing four of their pastures, Marker said, “Tradition says you would put cattle in all four pastures and drive to each one to take care of them. Now we put them all in one and rotate them through the others.” This allows them to stockpile grass as well

as save time, labor, fuel and wear and tear on equipment.

He begins with a simple math problem, dividing the acres in each pasture by the total to get the percentage of the total, then uses a 45-day rotation to get the number of days the cattle can be in each pasture. He then factors in the differences in pastures and makes adjustments. “You have to pull days out of some and put them in other pastures to keep from overgrazing some while under grazing others,” he explained. He added that their goal was not to increase their stocking rates dramatically, due to the unpredictability of their weather. Last year’s good spring rains shut off in the summer, and except for a couple of good rains this fall, they’ve had no moisture since. “But we have enough grass in all our rotations to get us through spring green-up and into late summer before we have to start thinking about liquidating or adjusting any of our stocking numbers.”

Marker said they just

began feeding the first set of cows for this year and will feed about a pound and a half of DDGs into January. As March calves they will bump them up to two pounds, then two and a half to three when they calve. But he rarely feeds hay. “We have to get a ten to twelve-inch snow before we feed hay,” he said. “I can’t afford to feed something I’m throwing half of away. We need a good hay crop out in the pasture because that’s where we feed.”

“We’re done on a normal feeding day in February and March by noon,” he said. “Then we get to come in, eat lunch and rest and I get to see my wife and that’s important. I know several folks that all they get done is yell at each other because the weather’s bad and the hay’s wet or the machinery is broke and the cows aren’t working. This allows us some breathing room so we can get the really important things done.”

Healthier pastures is another benefit Marker has

seen from the rotational grazing, and although he says his pastures aren’t totally where they want them to be, they’re on their way. His son Nathan has introduced goats to the operation to help with weed and brush control, allowing them to do more focused spot-spraying rather than blanketing the whole pasture. “We’re harvesting the enemy now, rather than just destroying it,” he said of the Sericea lespedeza, locust and hedge trees that are now taken care of by the goats. The meat goats also add another layer of profitability for the ranch. “The meat goat market doesn’t care what the cattle market does,” Marker pointed out. “After being used for brush control, we can sell the meat goats for a profit.”

Guarding that profit is part of Marker’s stewardship goal. “We really have to start looking at the money we’re spending,” he said. “We have to be genuinely profitable and things have to pay for themselves to work for you. These things are pretty simple, but they work pretty well.”

He also guards his time. “Don’t just take care of the urgent things,” he encouraged his audience. “Because there’s always something urgent. Make sure you take care of the important things, because that’s what we’ll give account for.”

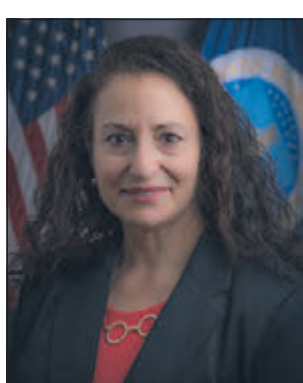
And for Marker, that’s what it all comes down to – one day giving account.

“To be a steward, you guard something that doesn’t belong to you,” he reflected. “The Lord is the provider, we are to be a caretaker. And I’m going to have to give an account for the way I take care of His stuff.”

## Trump administration appoints Lynne Hinrichsen to serve as state director for USDA Rural Development in Kansas

The Trump administration recently appointed Lynne Hinrichsen as the new state director for USDA Rural Development in Kansas. Hinrichsen began her new role on Monday, Nov. 27.

Hinrichsen has an extensive background in sales, marketing, advertising, management, strategic planning and business development through her career in the staffing, beef cattle and food distribution industries. Most recently, Hinrichsen served as the Agribusiness Development Director for the Kansas De-



Kansas Rural Development (RD) State Executive Director Lynne Hinrichsen, USDA

Photo by Preston Keres

partment of Agriculture. In that role, she assisted Kansas agricultural businesses find new domestic and international markets for their products, as well as recruit-

ing and assisting agricultural businesses. Prior to working for the state government, Hinrichsen owned and operated a professional staffing service for 13 years in Manhattan, where she provided human resource consulting services to companies. Hinrichsen lives in Westmoreland with her husband and children. They have owned and operated Hinrichsen Ranch, a registered Angus cattle operation, for more than 25 years.

As state director, Hinrichsen will use her leadership experience to oversee Rural Development programs in a customer-focused manner to restore prosperity in rural Kansas.

Under the direction of

Secretary Sonny Perdue, the USDA will always be facts-based and data-driven, with a decision-making mindset that is customer-focused. Perdue leads the USDA with four guiding principles: to maximize the ability of American ag-

riculture to create jobs, sell foods and fiber, and feed and clothe the world; to prioritize customer service for the taxpayers; to ensure that our food supply is safe and secure; and to maintain good stewardship of the natural resources that

provide us with our miraculous bounty. And understanding that we live in a global economy where trade is of top importance, Perdue has pledged to be an unapologetic advocate for American agriculture.

## The spirit of the season



The spirit of the season was on full display at the Old Fashioned Christmas Parade held in downtown Lawrence. Horses of all sizes and many types of carriages and wagons were festively decorated with a large crowd turning out for the much-anticipated annual event.

**Grass & Grain  
Holiday Deadlines**

**The deadlines for the Dec. 26 issue of Grass & Grain will be Thursday, Dec. 21 at 10 a.m. for classifieds and noon for all display advertising, including sale barn consignments.**

**For the January 2 issue, the deadlines will be Friday, December 29 at 10 a.m. for classifieds and noon for display advertising, including sale barn consignments.**





## When Winter Bites

**By John Schlageck, Kansas Farm Bureau**  
When the temperatures in Kansas dip below freezing, two types of people usually surface—those who enjoy invigorating weather and those who tolerate the cold from the inside. How an individual feels about the cold weather usually depends on where he/she grew up, age and more importantly, attitude. Another element comes into play – wind chill factor. Wind chill factor is usually defined as the cooling effect from wind

and temperature on the human body. Wind whisking by exposed skin during cold weather increases a person's heat loss. An Antarctic explorer, Paul Siple, and his colleague, Charles Passel, first coined the term “wind chill” in 1939. Siple described wind chill as the relative cooling power – heat removal – from the body with various combinations of wind speed and low temperatures. Some 75 years later, wind chill has become a common term in our every-

day conversation. Knowing the factors help people protect themselves against frostbite and hypothermia. Tissue damage occurs in frostbite when wind chill temperatures fall below -25 degrees F. Hypothermia results when the rapid loss of the body's internal temperature alters judgment. This sometimes results in death. Western Kansas stockmen know the harder the wind blows, the lower the wind chill factor. Simply put, it is the relationship between wind speed and actual temperature that produces this chilling effect. People who spend time outdoors during these cold periods – stockmen, construction workers, hunters, runners and skiers – may create their own winds or

increase the existing wind. Because movement magnifies airflow, they should be especially cautious of wind chill. Manual labor and other physical exertion can cause heat loss also. Sweat begins and heat is removed by vaporization. Breathing cold air also results in the loss of heat from the lungs. Few people realize that smoking, drinking, prescription drugs and illegal narcotics may also contribute to frostbite or hypothermia during bitterly cold temperatures. All of these dull the senses. Alcohol dilates the capillaries of the skin and that increases the body's heat loss. Nicotine smoke absorbed by the blood causes the capillaries to constrict. This restricts the blood

flow to the earlobes, fingertips and other regions of the body. Medication can have side effects too, so venture outside during cold weather with caution. Wind chill charts for regular references are available wherever outdoor equipment is sold. Use these charts only as a point of information. Wind chill charts aren't always accurate because they don't consider all the possibilities of heat loss, or the preventive measures against it. Air temperature is rarely a reliable indicator of how cold a person will feel outdoors. Elements such as wind speed, relative humidity and sunshine or solar radiation also play a part. A person's health and the type of clothing worn will also affect how a

person feels. When you go outside, dress for the weather and the wind. Wear loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing in several layers. These layers can be removed to prevent perspiration and subsequent chilling. Snug mittens are better protection than fitted gloves. Always wear a hat, preferably wool, ear protection and a scarf or neck gaiter. If it's bitter cold – stay inside or limit your exposure to the elements. *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.*

# Farm tax planning is important in good years... and bad

With the new year straight ahead, there's no better time for farmers and ranchers to take stock of where they are financially in order to put them in the best tax situation possible, according to agricultural economist Mark Dikeman. Dikeman, associate director of the Kansas Farm Management Association at Kansas State University, said some farmers arrive at the end of the year without a good understanding of where they are financially. Spending time now to determine where your operation is can benefit a farmer in the long run. “In the last ten years, we've looked at tax planning from the perspective of keeping income down and staying in a certain tax bracket,” Dikeman said, but with lower com-

modity prices the last couple of years, some farmers may be on the brink of showing a net operating loss, which has its own pitfalls, tax-wise. In addition to obvious reasons to avoid such a loss, a net operating loss means a farmer will not be able to utilize personal exemptions, capital loss carryovers, or all of their standard deduction. “That's lost to you. Avoiding a net operating loss is always a good idea. For a married couple with two children, that is up to \$28,900 in lost deductions in 2017,” Dikeman said. He provided year-end tips: Get your records in order. Having an accurate set of records is critical for a tax preparer to work with. That doesn't mean a shoebox with a bunch

of receipts. A computer program or ledger sheet – something that's reconciled back to a bank statement – is best. If you don't have that set up, consider that your New Year's resolution so you'll be better prepared next year. Don't wait until the last minute to get your records in order. Waiting until December to start your bookkeeping for the year means guessing about checks written in January and that doesn't lead to accurate records. Meet with your tax preparer before the end of the year to discuss your current financial situation and what tax bracket you're likely to be in. Allow enough time to bring in additional income if facing a net operating loss or to make additional purchases if your income

is too high. If a farm loss is inevitable, think outside the box to bring in additional income. Extra IRA distributions, traditional IRA to Roth IRA conversions, or non-farm capital asset sales (like stocks) can potentially offset negative farm income and avoid a net operating loss. Remember the option to sell grain using a deferred contract. In that case, you can sell grain before the end of the year, but not be paid until after the first of the next year. You then have flexibility to decide, after the fact, if you need additional income in the year that the crop was sold. Make sure you sell in several small contracts rather than one large contract to provide more flexibility for when to show income. Make sure you tell your tax preparer about all equipment purchases. If equipment is dealer- or manufacturer-financed, it won't show up in your

bank accounts. That can be \$300,000 or \$400,000 that your tax preparer doesn't know about it unless you tell him or her. For farmers, part of tax planning involves understanding your options regarding when you file your return and pay taxes. The most popular, Dikeman said, is to not make any estimated tax payments, but in that case, you must file your return and pay all tax due by March 1. The downside is that if you have investments in stocks or mutual funds through brokerage accounts, some of those firms don't mail 1099 forms until mid to late February which may not allow enough time to file by the deadline. Other options are to make quarterly estimated tax payments, although this is the least popular. In that case, the tax return must be filed by April 15. This option may be required if less than two-thirds of your gross income comes from farming.

Some farmers make one annual estimated payment which must be paid by Jan. 15, though the tax return itself must be filed by April 15. In that case, the smaller of 100 percent of last year's tax liability or two-thirds of this year's tax liability is the estimated payment amount with any shortfall due when the return is filed. A final option for farmers when it comes to filing deadlines is to not pay any estimated tax and file by April 15. If a farmer owes tax, this would likely result in penalties and interest, Dikeman said, but usually not as much as interest paid if they had to borrow the funds to pay taxes. “More and more are doing that because cash is tight and operating loan balances are high. Depending on the situation, it might make sense to do that,” he added. The Kansas Farm Management Association has 26 agricultural economists located in 11 offices across the state. They provide farmer members with production and financial information to make farm business decisions. Each KFMA member receives record keeping assistance, an annual accrual farm analysis, year-end tax planning and more. For more information go to [www.agmanager.info/kfma](http://www.agmanager.info/kfma).



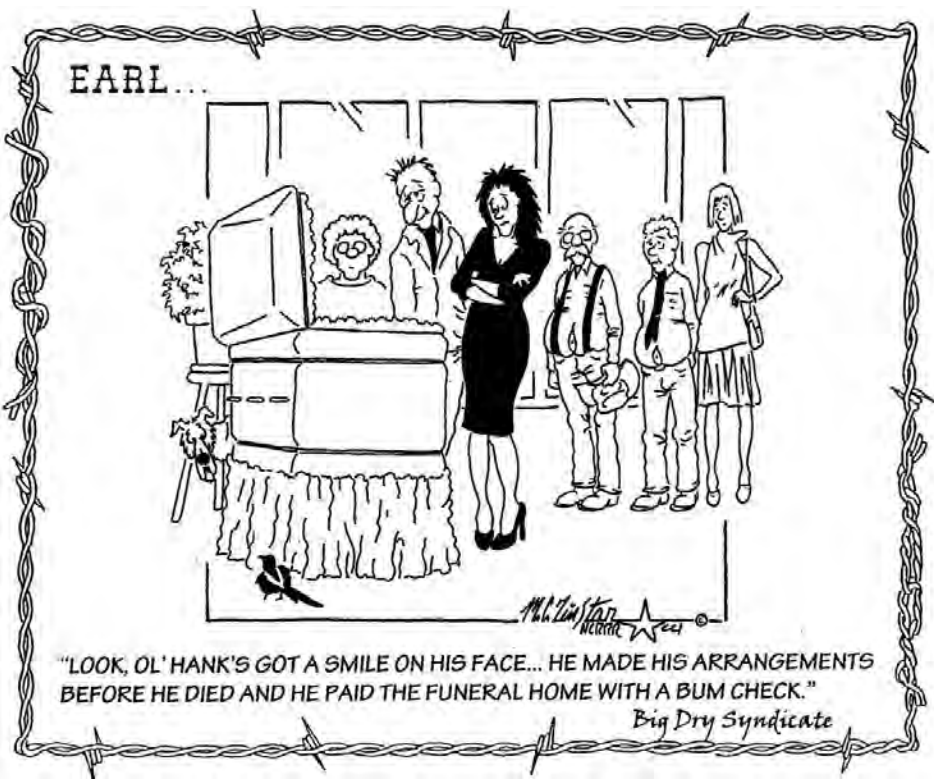
It's the middle of December, Christmas is nearly here, and I finally feel like I am sort of, kind of, caught up. I have decided in agriculture, at least my version of agriculture, sort of, kind of, caught up is about as good as it gets. I am never truly caught up, there are always projects and things that should be done, but for right now I have all the “have to” things checked off my list and that is a huge relief. This fall was made extra challenging because we moved in August. We are finally settled and settling into our new routines at the new place and it is as good as I had hoped for. Life is so much easier without a commute between farms. Do I get more done in a day? I would like to believe so, but the truth probably is that I do not, I am just not spending as much time on the road each day and that makes me feel more productive. Yes, we are moved and most of the boxes are unpacked and if we were going to be totally honest we would probably get rid of the boxes that are not unpacked. If we have not used it up to this point, it is probably not important, and we probably won't miss it. However, it is that “probably” that keeps me from having a mass purge. There are still several things I have not found yet. What worries me more is the possibility of several more things I am missing that I have not realized yet that I am missing. And to think that my family accuses me of being a packrat and a hoarder. Coupled with the move was the fact that this fall seemed to be the never-ending harvest. Don't get me wrong, this was the most problem-free harvest from an equipment standpoint that I have ever went through. The problem was with crops that would not dry down and weather that would not allow us to get good long days in. The day we could start before noon was rare, most of harvest was spent waiting on the dew to dry and the fog to clear. Eventually we did push through and get everything harvested. Then it was time to bring the cows home but before we could do that I had to get my sheep pens built at the new place. I had “temporarily” moved the sheep into our cattle lots. Then came harvest and soon I realized that if I was going to bring the

cows home from pasture I had to move the sheep out of their pens. Sheep pen building and cattle moving happened simultaneously. I would like to say that we coordinated things like a well-oiled machine. The reality was that it all happened despite my lack of focus and organization. Eventually the cows all came home, and the sheep were settled into their new, shiny, better-than-ever pens, maybe a couple of weeks later than I would have liked, but in the end, it all got done. The next thing up was weaning calves and that was a lot closer to Thanksgiving than I would like to have admitted. Again, I guess this is one of those years I was not going for style points because in the end, it got done. Not the way I would have liked it to, but it is another on the long list that was checked off. The final barrier between being behind and sort of, kind of caught up was to get the cows out on the cornstalks. We were only a month away from “ideal” but let's face it, ideal is one of those concepts that look better on paper and seldom happens in the real world. However, this past weekend, we opened the gate and let the cows out on the cornstalks and declared ourselves sort of, kind of caught up. The temptation, and I often fall victim to temptation, is to take a deep breath, relax and enjoy not being behind. I have a long list of things that need to be done this winter and another long list of things I would like to get done this winter. The top of that list is to finish the sheep facility construction ahead of the impending lambing season. No sweat, I have a whole month, no wait, make that two weeks, what do you mean we have lambs? Yes, this week I had my first set of lambs so after a grand total of three days of being sort of, kind of caught up, I am once again behind. Two things occurred to me. One is that I work much more efficiently when under stress. However, the most important realization I came to about not being caught up or, heaven forbid, ahead of things, was simple. I will live forever because I don't have time to die until I am caught up on all my work. I guess that is why farmers live forever our work is never done.

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# RMA announces changes to its crop insurance policy

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Risk Management Agency (RMA) has announced changes to its crop insurance policies. Major changes for 2018 focus on conservation compliance certification and choice of unit structure based on the risk management

needs of producers.

"Every producer's situation is unique. At RMA we want to ensure the policies we provide are flexible enough so that producers are getting the most effective and efficient coverage. Ensuring producers have the right coverage helps to strengthen

the farm safety net," said RMA acting administrator Heather Manzano.

To offer producers increased flexibility, RMA has removed the June 1 certification deadline date from the conservation compliance provisions and will instead refer to the premium bill-

ing date. This will allow the conservation compliance certification process for crop insurance to be administered more consistently with the way it is administered for other USDA programs. RMA is also streamlining its services by now allowing a policyholder to select an

enterprise unit for either irrigated or non-irrigated practice. Policyholders may also choose the most appropriate unit structure on the other practice, be it a separate enterprise unit or optional or basic units. These changes reduce the burden placed on producers and makes crop insur-

ance more accessible.

RMA worked closely with its stakeholders to identify the changes, which were published Nov. 24 in the Federal Register.

Learn more about crop insurance and the modern farm safety net at <https://www.rma.usda.gov>.

# U.S. Wheat Associates, other farm organizations outline priorities at WTO Ministerial Conference

The World Trade Organization held its eleventh WTO Ministerial Conference Dec. 10 to 13, 2017, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In a letter to U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) and 13 other U.S. farm organizations urged the United States to defend the interests of U.S. agriculture. Specifically, the letter describes industry stances on public stockholding and domestic support, while underscoring the importance of an effective dispute settlement mechanism for agriculture.

First addressing at-

tempts to weaken the WTO Agreement on Agriculture by exempting price support programs tied to public stock procurement, the letter said "Market price support is one of the most trade-distorting forms of domestic support for agriculture. Relaxing price support disciplines for certain countries could lead to a much more distorted global marketplace."

The letter pointed out a closely related challenge in the push for new domestic support commitments.

"It is surreal to witness attempts to negotiate new domestic support commitments when so many

countries have flagrantly ignored current commitments," the organizations wrote. "Any domestic support outcome should carefully target the deficiencies in the system that led to such enormous abuses." The groups also credited Lighthizer for addressing this problem through the dispute settlement case against China on its non-compliant price support programs for wheat, corn and rice.

Finally, the farm organizations expressed strong support for the WTO dispute settlement system and its crucial role addressing some of the major

challenges in agricultural markets. They pointed to much improved global trade rules for agriculture following the creation of the WTO and negotiation of new free trade agreements. The groups also expressed concern that U.S. actions to block WTO Appellate Body appointments indefinitely could prevent resolution of current cases and discourage new ones that might benefit U.S. agriculture.

The following organizations signed the letter: American Farm Bureau Federation, American Soybean Association, National Association of

Wheat Growers, National Barley Growers Association, National Corn Growers Association, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, National Sunflower Association, U.S. Canola

Association, U.S. Dry Bean Council, U.S. Grains Council, U.S. Soybean Export Council, U.S. Wheat Associates, USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council, USA Rice Federation.

# AMS announces changes to beef grading system

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announced it will update the voluntary U.S. Standards for Grades of Carcass Beef. USDA quality grades are used by companies to provide information to purchasers about meat's tenderness, juiciness and flavor, and are a major factor in determining the value of beef and live cattle.

This update to the standards will provide companies using the USDA grading program with additional options — dentition or age documentation — to establish the maturity of animals and ensure that cattle 30 months or younger are included in the youngest maturity group recognized as beef, AMS

said.

In 2016, TCFA and NCBA filed comments with the AMS supporting a petition to revise the current

standards to include documentation and dentition as authorized methods to determine age.

The change for volun-

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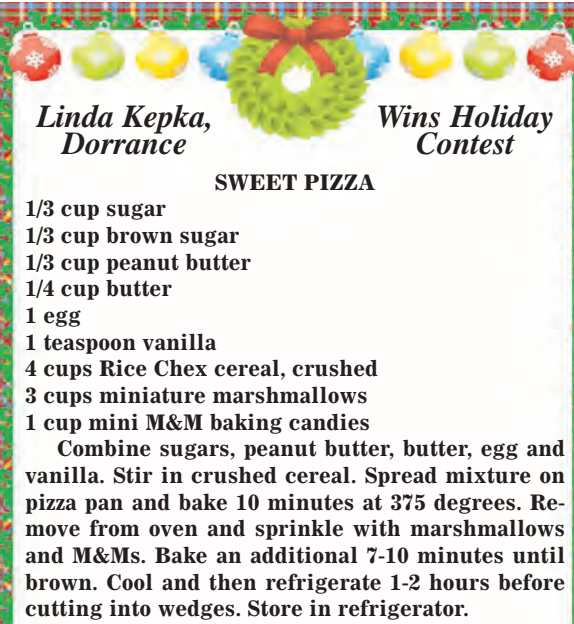
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1/3 cup sugar  
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1/3 cup peanut butter  
1/4 cup butter  
1 egg  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
4 cups Rice Chex cereal, crushed  
3 cups miniature marshmallows  
1 cup mini M&M baking candies

Combine sugars, peanut butter, butter, egg and vanilla. Stir in crushed cereal. Spread mixture on pizza pan and bake 10 minutes at 375 degrees. Remove from oven and sprinkle with marshmallows and M&Ms. Bake an additional 7-10 minutes until brown. Cool and then refrigerate 1-2 hours before cutting into wedges. Store in refrigerator.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Kathy Buessing, Axtell:** "This is so pretty and because there is no bread in it, you can serve cinnamon rolls, toast, etc. with it."

**CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST CASSEROLE**

1 pound sausage  
1 1/2 cups fresh baby spinach, chopped coarsely into 1-inch pieces or so  
1 red bell pepper, chopped  
12 eggs  
1/4 cup milk  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon pepper  
2 green onions, chopped

Brown sausage; drain fat and place in a 9-by-13-inch greased pan. Place the spinach and pepper on top of the sausage. Mix remaining ingredients all together and pour over the sausage, peppers and spinach. Cover with foil and bake at 375 degrees for 30-45 minutes until eggs are set.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Claire Martin, Salina:** "Easy and great for the holidays!"

**FOCACCIA ROLLS**

3 cups flour  
1 package quick-rise yeast  
1 tablespoon rosemary (fresh) or 1 teaspoon dried  
1 tablespoon sugar  
1 teaspoon kosher salt  
1 1/2 cups very warm water

(120 to 130 degrees)  
3 tablespoons olive oil  
Topping:  
1 teaspoon dried thyme  
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt  
3 tablespoons olive oil

Combine flour, yeast, sugar and salt and rosemary. Beat in water and oil for one minute. Divide dough evenly (about 2 tablespoons) between 18 muffin cups (greased). Let rise 30 minutes. Stir topping ingredients in a small saucepan on low heat until fragrant. Let cool. Spoon over rolls. Bake at 375 degrees for 25 minutes or until golden brown."

\*\*\*\*\*

**Lucille Wohler, Clay Center:** "This is something young children can make when school is out during the holidays and the family will enjoy eating it."

**HEALTH MIX**

1 cup raisins  
1 cup sunflower seeds  
1 cup dry-roasted peanuts  
1 cup chocolate chips  
1/2 cup shredded toasted coconut

Mix all ingredients.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Linda Elston, Lawrence:**

**CHICKEN-FRIED PATTIES**

1 pound ground beef  
1 teaspoon salt

## “Our Daily Bread”

### Holiday Bonus Drawing Winners

All G&G Area Cooks who sent recipes for the holiday contests were entered in a special drawing. The four cooks whose names were drawn will each receive \$35. They are:

<b>Nancy Rhodes</b> Abilene, KS	<b>Dorothy Klammer</b> Bonner Springs, KS
<b>Linda Elston</b> Lawrence, KS	<b>Dona Schultz</b> Miltonvale, KS

*A big THANK YOU to all who shared their favorite recipes with G&G Cooks during this holiday season!*

## G&G Announces Its Annual Holiday Recipe Contest

**Nov. 21 through Dec. 19**

In observance of the holiday season, Grass & Grain will award the weekly winners \$35 in addition to the prize gift. **CONTEST IS NOW CLOSED!**

**BONUS DRAWING**

Second chance to win! The names of all contestants will be entered in a drawing from which four names will be chosen. Each of these four contestants will receive \$35. Winners will be announced Dec. 19.

## Hometown Heroes 1,000 piece Puzzle

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- Artwork by Dan Hatala.
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The winner each week is selected from the recipes printed. Send us your favorite recipe. It may be a main dish, leftover, salad, side dish, dessert, or what-have-you. 1. Check your recipe carefully to make certain all ingredients are accurate and instructions are clear. 2. Be sure your name, address and phone number are on the entry. Please include a street address with your recipe entries. A post office box number is not sufficient for prize delivery. Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery. 3. Send it to: Woman's Page Editor, Grass & Grain, Box 1009, Manhattan, KS 66505. OR e-mail: [auctions@agpress.com](mailto:auctions@agpress.com)

# 2017 Grass & Grain Holiday Recipe Contest

1/2 teaspoon pepper  
1 egg, beaten  
1/2 cup evaporated milk  
1 cup cracker crumbs  
Flour, for dredging patties in

Add salt and pepper to ground beef then shape into 6 patties. Mix egg and milk in a bowl. Dip patties into egg mixture then coat with crumbs. Cook in a small amount of fat in skillet until brown. Makes 6 servings.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Lorene Kendall, Manhattan:**

**RICE PUDDING**

2/3 cup Minute Rice  
1/4 cup sugar  
1/8 teaspoon salt  
2 1/2 cups milk  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1 tablespoon butter  
1 egg  
2 tablespoons milk

Combine Minute Rice, sugar, salt, 2 1/2 cups milk, vanilla and butter; bring to a boil. Cook 20 minutes over low heat stirring frequently. Beat together egg and 2 tablespoons milk very slowly. Add to hot rice stirring rapidly. Remove from heat. Serves 4.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Rita Dawson, Lebo:**

**CINNAMON ROLL BREAD**

2 cups flour  
1 cup sugar  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon baking soda  
1 cup whole buttermilk  
1/2 cup butter, melted & cool  
2 eggs  
2 teaspoons vanilla  
Cinnamon Swirl:  
4 tablespoons butter, melted  
1/4 cup light brown sugar  
1 tablespoon ground cinnamon  
Glaze:  
1 cup powdered sugar  
3 tablespoons heavy cream, plus additional as needed to then

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a 9-by-5-inch metal nonstick loaf pan with baking spray. Set aside. In a medium bowl sift together flour, sugar, baking powder, salt and baking soda. In a separate bowl whisk buttermilk, melted butter, eggs and vanilla together. Add to the dry ingredients mix-

ing until fully combined. Pour half (1/2) batter into pan then drop dollops of swirl on top and swirl into batter. Add rest of batter to pan and drop dollops on top; swirl in thoroughly through batter. Bake for 40 minutes then check center with toothpick for doneness. If too brown or not done, can cover with aluminum foil and bake for additional 10 to 15 minutes. Cool on cooling rack in pan for 1 hour then remove from pan to cool completely. Make the glaze and pour over cooled cinnamon roll bread.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Ireta Schwant, Blaine:** "Always enjoy the recipe page."

**HOLIDAY POPCORN BALLS**

1 cup light corn syrup  
1 package red gelatin  
9 to 10 cups popped corn  
1/2 cup sugar  
1 cup chopped peanuts

Combine syrup and sugar; bring to boil. Remove from heat; add gelatin, stirring until dissolved. Add peanuts and mix well. Combine with popcorn and form into popcorn balls. May be formed around small suckers or Tootsie Roll Pop. Enjoy!

\*\*\*\*\*

**JoAnne Breault, Wamego:** "Great to serve at a brunch or add to dessert list. The making ahead and freezing makes a time saver for the holidays."

**CRANBERRY APRICOT SCONES**

2 cups flour  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon baking soda  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1/2 cup cold butter  
1/2 cup raisins (dried cranberries)  
1/2 cup chopped dried apricots  
3/4 cup buttermilk

Combine flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Cut in butter. Add fruit. Mix in milk. Mix well and lightly knead six times. Press mixture into (2) 9-inch circles on sheet pan. Cut into pie shape wedges and pull slightly apart. Bake at 425 degrees for 10 minutes.

NOTE: You can freeze these scones. To serve, thaw and bake (at 425 de-

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The winner each week is selected from the recipes printed. Send us your favorite recipe. It may be a main dish, leftover, salad, side dish, dessert, or what-have-you. 1. Check your recipe carefully to make certain all ingredients are accurate and instructions are clear. 2. Be sure your name, address and phone number are on the entry. Please include a street address with your recipe entries. A post office box number is not sufficient for prize delivery. Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery. 3. Send it to: Woman's Page Editor, Grass & Grain, Box 1009, Manhattan, KS 66505. OR e-mail at: [auctions@agpress.com](mailto:auctions@agpress.com)



grees) for 6 to 7 minutes or until hot. I like to cut into smaller wedges (approximately 1 1/2-by-2-inch) before baking. I then drizzle icing over them.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Beth Scripter, Abilene:** "Beth you can't stop eating this!"

**SWEET & SALTY FRITO MIX**

10-ounce bag Fritos  
2 cups Rice Chex mix  
2 cups mini pretzel twists  
1 1/2 cups mixed nuts  
1 cup packed brown sugar  
1 stick butter  
1/2 cup light corn syrup  
1 cup M&Ms

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large bowl combine Fritos, Chex mix, pretzels and nuts; set aside. In a saucepan melt brown sugar, butter and corn syrup over medium heat. Let the mixture come to a boil and then boil for 4 minutes without stirring. Remove pan from heat and pour over Frito mixture. Stir to coat evenly. Transfer to a large roasting pan and bake for 8 minutes. Stir well then bake another 8 minutes. Stir well. Transfer mixture to a waxed paper lined counter and let it cool before breaking into pieces. When cooled sprinkle with M&Ms. Store in air-tight container and ENJOY!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Bernadetta McCollum, Clay Center:** "This is not the traditional 'fruit cake.' It is one everyone likes!"

**MEXICAN FRUIT CAKE**

2 cups sugar  
2 cups flour  
2 teaspoons baking soda  
20-ounce can crushed pineapple, undrained  
3 eggs

Mix all ingredients together and bake in a greased and floured 9-by-13-inch pan at 325 degrees for 45 minutes. Let cool slightly before frosting.

Frosting:  
2 cups powdered sugar  
1/2 cup chopped nuts  
8 ounces cream cheese, softened  
1/2 cup butter  
1 teaspoon vanilla

Cream butter and cream cheese together; add powdered sugar then vanilla. Spread frosting on cake and sprinkle with nuts.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Glenda Tullio, Council Grove:**

**BEST EVER CROCK-POT CHILI or SUPPER AFTER GIFT WRAPPING**

(3) 16-ounce cans Great Northern beans  
4 cups diced chicken or turkey breast, cooked

2 medium onions, chopped  
4 large garlic cloves, minced (do not substitute)  
(2) 4-ounce cans mild green chiles, chopped  
2 teaspoons ground cumin  
1 1/2 teaspoons dried oregano, crushed  
1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper  
6 cups chicken broth  
12 ounces grated Monterey Jack cheese  
Sour cream (for garnish), optional

Put all the above ingredients into a 5-quart crock-pot except cheese and sour cream. Cook 6 to 8 hours on low. Add cheese just before serving and stir until melted. Garnish with sour cream if desired.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Loretta Shepard, Helena, Oklahoma:**

**PUMPKIN-PECAN CAKE ROLL**

3 eggs  
1 cup sugar  
3/4 cup all-purpose flour  
3/4 cup cooked or canned pumpkin  
1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
1 teaspoon ground ginger  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg  
1 teaspoon lemon juice  
1 cup finely chopped pecans  
Confectioner's sugar

Filling:  
(2) 3-ounce packages cream cheese, softened  
1/4 cup butter or margarine, softened  
1 cup confectioner's sugar  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

Line a greased 15-by-10-by-1-inch baking pan with waxed paper and grease the paper; set aside. In a mixing bowl beat eggs for 5 minutes. Add the sugar, flour, pumpkin, cinnamon, baking powder, ginger, salt and nutmeg; mix well. Add lemon juice. Spread batter evenly in prepared pan; sprinkle with pecans. Bake at 375 degrees for 15 minutes or until cake springs back when lightly touched. Cool for 5 minutes. Turn cake onto a kitchen towel dusted with confectioner's sugar. Gently peel off waxed paper. Roll up cake in towel, jelly-roll style, starting with a short side. Cool completely on a wire rack. In a mixing bowl combine the filling ingredients; beat until smooth. Unroll cake; spread filling over cake to within 1/2 inch of edges. Roll up again; place seam side down onto a serving platter. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour before serving. Yield: 12 servings.


\*\*\*\*\*

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Estaline Bouray, Courtland: "This is our favorite cake. I've made it many years."

#### WACKY CAKE

3 cups flour  
2 cups sugar  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
2 teaspoons soda  
1/2 cup cocoa  
2 tablespoons vinegar  
2 teaspoons vanilla  
2/3 cup Mazola oil or any kind  
2 cups water  
Combine flour, sugar, salt, soda and cocoa. Add the vinegar, vanilla and oil. Pour 2 cups water over all and mix. Pour into a 9-by-13-inch pan that has been sprayed. Bake in a 350-degree oven for 35 minutes.

Barbara Barthol, Olathe: "These are good!"

#### ROCKY ROAD BROWNIES

1 1/2 cups mini marshmallows  
1 cup chocolate chips  
1/2 cup chopped nuts  
Brownie mix

Mix marshmallows, chocolate chips and nuts together and set aside. Bake brownie mix in a 9-by-13-inch pan for 5 minutes less than box states. Sprinkle the marshmallow mix over the top of the brownies and bake 5 minutes longer. Cool on a wire rack and use a wet knife to cut (otherwise they won't cut well).

Nancy Rhodes, Abilene: "My grandsons love this!"

#### OYSTER CRACKER SNACKS

2 packages oyster crackers  
1 1/2 tablespoons dill weed  
1 1/2 cups oil  
1 teaspoon lemon pepper marinade  
1 package Hidden Valley dressing  
Pinch onion salt  
Pinch garlic powder  
Mix all together in large flat pan. Bake in 200-degree oven for 1 hour, stirring every 15 minutes. Store in tightly covered container.

Doris Shivers, Abilene: **BREAD & BUTTER PUDDING WITH SALTED CARAMEL WHISKEY BUTTER SAUCE**

Bread & Butter Pudding:  
1/2 cup raisins  
1/2 cup Irish whiskey  
5 eggs  
2 cups heavy cream  
cup sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg  
8 slices firm white bread (12 to 14 ounces)  
3/4 cup unsalted butter, room temperature  
Salted Caramel Whiskey Butter Sauce:  
1/4 cup unsalted butter, cubed  
1/2 cup sugar  
1/2 teaspoon sea salt  
1 1/4 cups heavy cream  
3 tablespoons reserved whiskey

In a medium bowl combine raisins and whiskey; let soak 1 hour. Butter a 2-quart rectangular baking dish; set aside. For custard, in a large bowl whisk together eggs, cream, sugar, vanilla, cinnamon and nutmeg. Generously spread one side of each bread slice with butter;

cut each in half diagonally. Arrange in prepared baking dish, overlapping slices. Drain raisins, reserving whiskey. Sprinkle raisins over bread, tucking some between slices. Pour custard over bread; cover. Soak in refrigerator 30 minutes. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Place uncovered baking dish in a large baking pan. Add hot water to halfway up sides of dish. Bake 45 minutes or until pudding is set and top is golden. Carefully remove baking dish from water bath; cool slightly on a wire rack. Meanwhile, for the sauce, in a 2-quart saucepan melt butter over medium heat. Whisk in sugar, salt, cream and 3 tablespoons of the reserved whiskey. Bring to boiling; reduce heat. Simmer uncovered, 10 to 15 minutes or until slightly thickened, stirring frequently. Serve warm pudding with sauce.

Rose Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma:

#### APPLE CRANBERRY RELISH

1 large orange, zested  
12-ounce package cranberries  
1 apple, peeled, cored & coarsely chopped  
1 stalk celery, chopped  
1 1/2 cups sugar  
Peel orange removing bitter white membranes, then separate into sections. Put sections in a food processor or blender. Add cranberries, apple and celery. Pulse until coarsely chopped. Transfer to a bowl, stir in sugar and orange zest. Transfer to an air-tight container and cover.

Amy Feigley, Enterprise: "My Grandma Kitchener would make this delicious cake during the holidays and there was never any left at the end of the night. This cake is better when it is made in a cast iron skillet."

#### PINEAPPLE UPSIDE DOWN CAKE

1/2 cup butter  
2/3 cup brown sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1/2 cup shortening (I use butter-flavored Crisco)  
1 cup sugar  
2 eggs  
2 cups flour  
3 teaspoons baking powder  
3/4 cup milk  
Pineapple slices  
Walnuts (optional)

Melt butter and brown sugar in skillet. Place pineapple slice and walnuts (optional) over mixture. Cream shortening, sugar and eggs until light and fluffy. Mix flour and baking powder. Add dry ingredients alternately with milk and vanilla to egg mixture. Beat until smooth. Place batter over fruit-brown sugar mixture in skillet. Bake for 40 minutes at 375 degrees. Serve with whipped cream.

Shirley Deiser, Kanopolis:

#### GELATIN SALAD

3-ounce box lime gelatin  
3-ounce box lemon gelatin  
1 container Cool Whip  
Lettuce leaves  
Shredded cheese  
Mix gelatins together

er (with water amounts on package); save some dry gelatin to fold in Cool Whip. When set cut in squares. Combine reserved gelatin mixture with Cool Whip and top gelatin squares. Serve on lettuce leaves. Top with shredded cheese.

Joyce Jandera, Hanover: "So good & well worth the time to put these goodies together. They won't last long."

#### CARAMEL PECAN MERINGUES

3/4 cup plus 1/3 cup sugar, divided  
3 large egg whites, at room temperature  
1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla  
1/2 cup toasted pecans, finely chopped

In a large baking sheet covered with foil spray with cooking spray. In medium heavy saucepan sprinkle 1/3 cup sugar in an even layer. Cover over low heat without stirring until almost amber colored. Remove from heat and gently stir until sugar is dissolved and mixture is amber colored. Immediately pour onto greased prepared pan. Let cool completely. Remove mixture from foil and place in the work bowl of a food processor; pulse until coarsely ground. Preheat oven to 275 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. In a large bowl beat egg whites with mixer at low speed until foamy. With the mixer on medium speed add cream of tartar, beating until soft peaks form. With mixer on high speed gradually add remaining 3/4 cup sugar, 1 tablespoon at a time, beating until mixture is thick and glossy. Beat in vanilla. Gently fold in pecans. Drop mixture by 1/3 cupful 1 inch apart onto prepared pan. Sprinkle with ground caramel (that you have prepared). Bake until dry to the touch and meringues can be gently removed from parchment, 45 to 50 minutes. Let cool on pan 20 minutes. Remove from pan and let cool completely on a wire rack. Store in an air-tight container. Makes 9.

Lydia Miller, Westphalia:

#### HOLIDAY PUNCH

1 large package red hot  
15 to 20 whole cloves  
3 cups water  
1 large can frozen orange juice  
1 large can frozen pineapple juice  
60- to 64-ounce bottle cranberry juice

In a medium saucepan heat red hot, cloves and water until red hot is dissolved, stirring constantly; remove cloves. In 1-gallon jar combine orange and pineapple juice concentrates with cranberry juice. Add red hot mixture.

NOTE: This is a full gallon of concentrate to mix 50-50 with water.

Millie Conger, Tecumseh: **CROCK-POT SWEET & SALTY**

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2 pounds white chocolate candy coating  
6-ounce white chocolate baking bar  
12 ounces white chocolate chips  
3 cups dry roasted peanuts  
2 1/2 cups pretzel twists, broken into small pieces  
Red & green sprinkles, optional

In crock-pot put the coating, baking bar and chips. Put on low and cook 1 to 1 1/2 hours until melted; stir good. Stir in nuts and pretzels. Drop onto parchment-lined baking sheets to set up. Sprinkle as soon as you drop them if you want sprinkles or leave plain. Let set until dry.

Kimberly Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma:

#### CHOCOLATE BREAD PUDDING WITH MOCHA SAUCE

Nonstick cooking spray  
3 cups milk  
3/4 cup chocolate chips  
3/4 cup cocoa  
3 eggs  
5 cups bread cubes, dried  
1 recipe sauce

Lightly coat slow cooker with cooking spray or line with disposable liner. Set cooker aside. In saucepan heat milk over medium heat until very warm but not boiling. Remove from heat. Add chocolate chips and cocoa; let stand for 5 minutes without stirring. Whisk until smooth then cool for 10 minutes. In large bowl combine eggs and chocolate mixture. Stir in bread cubes and transfer to the prepared cooker. Cover and cook on low heat 2 1/2 hours or until knife inserted near the center of pudding comes out clean. Mixture will puff. Turn off cooker. If possible remove crockery liner from cooker and place on a wire rack. Cool uncovered for 30 minutes. Pudding will fall as it cools. To serve spoon into dishes and drizzle with sauce.

Sauce:  
1/4 cup sugar  
1/4 cup cocoa  
1 teaspoon cornstarch  
5-ounce can evaporated milk  
1/4 cup brewed coffee plus 2 tablespoons coffee  
In saucepan combine sugar, cocoa and cornstarch. Add evaporated milk, brewed coffee plus coffee. Cook and stir over medium heat until thickened and bubbly. Cook and stir 2 minutes more. Serve immediately or chill before serving.



By Ashleigh Hett

Can you think of a better combination than peanut butter and chocolate? I can't! Especially when it comes in such an easy form as this muffin recipe. They're simple and delicious when warm. (But don't forget that extra glass of milk!)

#### Peanut Butter Chocolate Chip Muffins

2 to 2 1/4 cups flour  
2 tablespoons baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
2/3 cup brown sugar  
6 tablespoons butter  
3/4 cup peanut butter  
2 eggs  
1 cup milk  
3/4 cup mini chocolate chips  
Preheat oven to 375 degrees.



In a large bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, salt and brown sugar. Set aside. In another bowl, mix the butter, peanut butter, eggs, and milk. There will still be some lumps from the peanut butter, but that's fine!

Millie Conger, Tecumseh: **CARAMEL FONDUE**

25 caramels  
1/3 cup half & half or cream  
1/3 cup miniature marshmallows  
In microwave bowl put caramels and cream. Cook on high 2-3 minutes in microwave. Stir (watch it close after the 2 minutes; if needed cook 1-2 minutes more). Stir in marshmallows. NOTE: You can do this in slow cooker for about and hour on low. Stir often. Serve with apple slices, pretzels, cookies, etc.

JoAnne Breault, Wamego: "Caution ... these do not last



Pour in the liquid with the flour mixture and then gently fold in chocolate chips.

Drop into greased or



lined muffin tins and bake for 17-20 minutes or until a toothpick come out clean.



Cool and enjoy! Ashleigh is a freelance writer and blogger for her website, Prairiegal Cookin' (www.prairiegal-cookin.com). She shares everything from step-by-step recipes to local history, stories, and photography from out on the farm in Kansas. Follow PGC online or like it on Facebook for more recipes and ramblings!

as they are so good. It would be wise to make a double batch. Great for gift-giving in a Mason jar."

#### EASY SPICED NUTS

1/3 cup sugar  
4 teaspoons cinnamon  
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg  
3 tablespoons light syrup  
2 cups whole almonds, pecans or favorite nuts  
Mix all ingredients together. Spread in single layer on a greased sheet (cookie) pan. Bake at 250 degrees approximately 20 minutes, stirring every 5 minutes until browned and bubbly. Cool. Store in airtight container.

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# Farm Bureau honors members and friends at 99th annual meeting

Kansas Farm Bureau recognized members and friends at its 99th Annual Meeting, Dec. 3-5 in Manhattan.

Seven people were recognized with the organization's Friends of Agriculture award. This award recognizes individuals who have made significant

contributions to Kansas Farm Bureau and agriculture or rural Kansas. They included:

Alan Boultinghouse from Crawford County had a storied teaching career at Girard High School where he served for 33 years. While there he was an agriculture ed-

ucation instructor and an advisor of the Girard FFA. He saw 17 state winning FFA teams and two national winning teams at the National FFA conventions in 2009 and 2013. He also coached 122 state FFA degree recipients and 22 American Degree candidates.

Marjorie Cartmill from Harper County has been serving the agriculture industry for more than 50 years. In that time, she served on the local FSA board as an advisor for nine years and nine more as a board member. Marj served on the Harper County Farm Bureau board for 18 years and filled many positions including president and women's chair. She's also served on Kansas Farm

Bureau's women's leadership committee.

Mel Heddlesten from Haskell County has been serving the agriculture industry since he started driving a tractor at the age of 12. He spent 38 years teaching agriculture at Santa helping students receive more than 80 scholarships to division one colleges. Mel is a 38-year member of the Kansas Association of Agricultural Educators and has trained 36 teams that represented Kansas at national competitions.

Harold and Jeanne Mertz were active ag industry leaders their whole lives. Jeanne served as president of the American Agri-Women Association, while also serving in the United Farm Wives of

America. In 1977, Jeanne developed a billboard project to promote farm commodities in Kansas. A year later, the first "grocery bag" sign highlighting how many people one Kansas farmer could feed was put up. Harold quickly became the chief project manager for the signs while also serving on both state and national sheep boards, the local co-op board and the Wamego School Board. The couple was honored posthumously by the organization. Jeanne passed away January of this year and Harold in 2015.

Warren Parker from Riley County served the members of Kansas Farm Bureau for 28 years as a staff member. His role in the organization included lobbying; initiating, directing and overseeing the creation of Kansas Farm Bureau's political action committee, VOTE FBF; directing the organization's communications and public relations; and creating and managing the organization's website presence.

Mick Rausch from Sedgwick County has served the agriculture industry for 40 years. Mick has served as president and vice president of the Sedgwick County Farm Bureau, and on state-level

Farm Bureau Committees. In 2012, Mick's family was honored as the District 4 Farm Family of the year. He currently serves as president of the Wichita Agribusiness Council and trustee for Garden Plain Township.

Marvin and Twylia Sekavec from both Ness and Edwards counties received the Kansas Farm Bureau Natural Resources Award. This award goes to the farm family who exemplifies good land stewardship. In 1994 the Sekavecs purchased property from the Wet Walnut Watershed District and began a journey of purifying the watershed and building habitats for wildlife. They are proof conservation and wildlife can be successfully integrated into an agricultural operation. Marvin and Twylia have worked together to plant more than 10,000 trees and shrubs to serve as windbreaks and increase wildlife.

Danny Dinkel, Farm Bureau Financial Services Agent in Hays, received KFB's Partnership Award. This award recognizes someone from Farm Bureau Financial Services who has gone above and beyond for the state's largest farm organization. Danny works closely with the Ellis County Farm Bureau board of directors and does an outstanding job bringing in new members and retaining current clients. He is an excellent example of a great partnership between the county Farm Bureau and a successful agency force.

**Photos continue on page 8**



Marjorie Cartmill of Harper County, shown with KFB president Rich Felts, was recognized for her more than fifty years of service to agriculture.

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Also recognized was Mel Heddlesten, Haskell County, shown receiving his award from President Felts.

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# Farm Financial Workshops offer confidential, one-on-one financial planning assistance

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Through Farm Financial workshops, a farm analyst will work directly with individuals and families using FINPACK software to assess a farm's financial position and help identify possible options to make the business more profitable and increase cash flow. The appoint-

ments are for four hours and financial records must be submitted ahead of the appointment.

Farm families will come away with a balance sheet, enterprise budget, base business plan, and alternative business plan scenarios.

"Farm families who have used the services of a farm analyst and FINPACK software in the past have increased farm income by several thousand dollars on an annual basis," said Duane Hund, the director of the program.

Dates and locations in-

clude:

Jan. 11-12 - Salina - Registration deadline Dec. 21. Records must be received by Jan. 3.

Jan. 23-24 - Kingman - Registration deadline Dec. 21. Records must be received by Jan. 5.

Feb. 7 - Colby - Registration deadline Jan. 16. Records must be received by Jan. 29.

Feb. 8 - Dodge City - Registration deadline Jan. 16. Records must be received by Jan. 29.

Feb. 12-13 - Emporia - Registration deadline Jan. 16. Records must be re-

ceived by Jan. 31.

Registration and more information is available at <http://www.agmanager.info/events/farm-financial-workshops> or by contacting Robin Reid at 785-532-0964 or [robinreid@ksu.edu](mailto:robinreid@ksu.edu).

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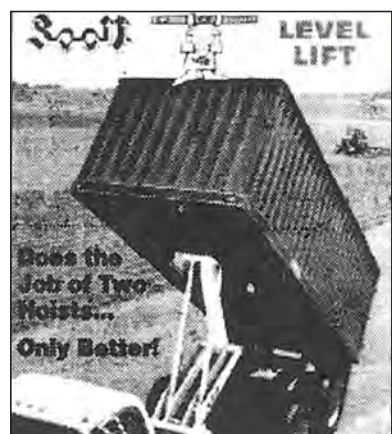
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Harold and Jeanne Mertz were honored posthumously for their tireless work on behalf of agriculture. Family members accepted the award.



Warren Parker served Kansas Farm Bureau members as a staff member for twenty-eight years.



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Recipients of the Kansas Farm Bureau Natural Resources Award were Marvin and Twylia Sekavec, from both Ness and Edwards Counties.



Receiving the KFB Partnership Award from President Rich Felts and CEO Terry Holdren was Danny Dinkel, Farm Bureau Financial Services agent in Hays.



Mick Rausch, Sedgwick County, has served as president and vice president of Sedgwick County Farm Bureau and on several state-level committees.

## Poinsettias present a Yuletide challenge for plant enthusiasts

The poinsettia can be found everywhere right now — florists, nurseries, grocery stores, large-scale retailers, even hardware stores. As common as they are, you might wonder how to choose plants with confidence and care for them so they won't droop before Santa drops down the chimney.

The poinsettia is probably the most familiar form of a specialized leaf known as a bract. The bracts are bright red, and they surround the very small flowers, which are usually yellow. When shopping for a poinsettia, K-State Research and Extension horticulturist Ward Upham suggests looking for the brightest yellow flowers, as those tend to be fresher.

"Make sure that the green leaves are intact and straight, not drooping over. The bracts should be brightly colored. Check the undersides of the leaves for insects. The soil in the pot should be moist, but not waterlogged."

Poinsettias are extremely sensitive to cold temperatures. Transporting the plant from the retailer to your home really is a do-or-die mission.

"Any temperature below 50° F for any length of time could damage the plant. Florists will often have a plastic sleeve over them — if you buy one from another retailer, it's not a bad idea to put a bag over it. And then go from the store to your vehicle, and from your vehicle into the house."

Place the plant where it can receive plenty of bright, indirect light. Avoid drafts — cold drafts, warm drafts, all of them. "A place near an outside door is just as bad as a place near an air vent," Upham said.

Poinsettias prefer temperatures above 60° F, which is, of course, what most people prefer during the winter, too. Perhaps the most challenging tight-rope to walk in terms of poinsettia care is water.

"They are sensitive to either over- or under-watering," said Upham. "Too little water can lead to wilt, which can progress to leaf loss and possibly even some bract loss. Too much water can cause root rot, and that's just as bad."

To avoid watering too soon, stick your finger down into the soil, about half an inch; if the soil is moist, it's fine. Dry soil means the plant needs water, and it needs to be saturated.

"When you do water, pour on enough so that you see water draining out of the bottom of the pot," Upham said. "If you have a tray or saucer underneath, discard any water that collects there."

"Many poinsettias are

sold with decorative foil surrounding the pot. You'll need to make a hole in the bottom of that foil so that that water can flow into the saucer or tray."

Following these instructions, your poinsettia should last several weeks. While it is possible to keep a poinsettia going from year to year, Upham warns that the blooming process is very challenging, even for the most experienced plant enthusiast.

"Assuming your poinsettia survives the summer outdoors, the real work begins in September. Poinsettias need 12 hours of absolute darkness, every night, for about six or seven weeks. That means putting the plant in a closet, and covering it with a cardboard box with all the seams taped over."

"Because of that, most people just toss them out in January or February, and buy another one next year."

### Are Poinsettias Really Poisonous?

It's a decades-old notion that the poinsettia, the popular plant seen everywhere during the holiday season, is dangerously toxic. It's common to hear warnings that the poinsettia should be kept away from children and pets.

"A lot of people think poinsettias are poisonous because they belong to the genus Euphorbia and a lot of other members of that genus are toxic," said K-State Research and Extension horticulturist Ward Upham.

The source of this urban legend is frequently attributed to the 1919 death of a two-year-old child in Hawaii. The cause of death was mistakenly attributed to a poinsettia leaf.

"It's been estimated that a 50 lb. child would have to consume more than 500 leaves for any real side effects or toxicity to set in," Upham said. "As far as pets go, about all they would have is some nausea."

"Besides," Ward concluded, "they taste horribly bitter. No amount of salad dressing can fix that."

### Did You Know?

While the plant has been around for hundreds of years, the modern poinsettia industry began in the early 19th century when the United States ambassador to Mexico, Joel Poinsett, brought some of the plants up from Mexico. "He brought some cuttings back and grew them in his greenhouse in South Carolina," said K-State Research and Extension horticulturist Ward Upham, "and then shared them with all of his friends and some businesses as well, and that's what got the whole thing started."

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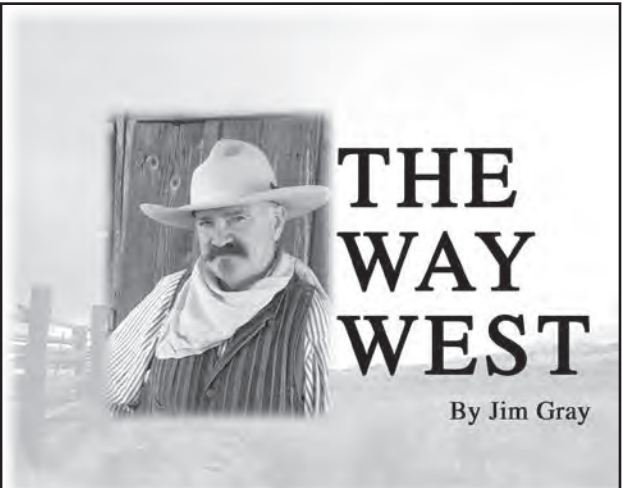


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# THE WAY WEST

By Jim Gray

## A Christmas Reunion

Isom Prentice "Print" Olive left Mississippi in 1844 on the back of Tawny, a buckskin mare headed for Texas. He was three years old. Tawny was tied to the back of the wagon beside two milk cows. The pace was slow and his father saw an opportunity to teach his son "to ride a bit." At that very moment sister Betty recognized the flicker of a new light in her little brother's eyes.

Print watched vaqueros pass by with droves of cattle and practiced their moves in the saddle. Within days the tether was let loose from the wagon and Print was up front, riding

alongside the oxen, urging them onward in imitation of his father, with shouts and calls universal to all who handle cattle.

The Olives settled in the heart of Yegua (pronounced Ya-wah) and Brushy Creeks, making their ranch a popular meeting place for cow hunts and mustanging. The town of Post Oak Island was a short distance away on the low ridge dividing the two creeks.

By age eleven Print could rope and tie the wildest cattle in the brush. The vaqueros had taught him how to "wag the cow's tail," a game the Mexicans

## Ag business group elects Thompson, Krissek as 2018 leaders

Robert M. Thompson, a partner with the Kansas City office of the Bryan Cave law firm, was elected chairman of the Agricultural Business Council of Kansas City at the group's annual meeting held December 7. Greg Krissek, CEO of the Kansas Corn Growers Association and Kansas Corn Commission, was elected vice chairman of the Council.

Thompson serves as co-leader of Bryan Cave's Food and Agribusiness Industry Group. He served as managing partner of the firm's Kansas City office from 2006-2012. He is a native of Nevada, Missouri, where he and his family have an active livestock and crop business. He holds a law degree from the University of Missouri. He has been active in numerous civic organizations, including the American Royal.

Kansas City, Kansas, has over 24 years experience working with agriculture and ethanol sectors. Prior to being named CEO of Kansas Corn in 2014, his previous stints included executive positions with Kansas Department of Agriculture, ICM, Inc., and Kennedy and Coe. He earned his law degree and MBA from the University of Denver.

The Council's Board of Directors is composed of 20 persons who serve staggered two-year terms. Those elected to the Board for a two-year term commencing January 1, 2018 were:

- Lee Blank, GFG Ag Services
- Ben Breazeale, Cargill
- Brad Garrison, Alpha Gamma Rho
- Garrett Hawkins, Missouri Dept. of Agriculture
- Terry Holdren, Kansas Farm Bureau
- Dustin Johansen, Os-

called "colear." While racing alongside of a lunging animal the long tail was captured and dallied around the saddle horn just as the rider turned his horse ninety degrees away from the stampeding steer. "Tailing" a steer brought them down "as easily as a child picks a daisy."

Print was proficient in all the ways of the vaquero, as well as a natural leader of men. He was elected "caporal" or captain of the hunt several times. Cow hunts were carried on year-round, only pausing for a few weeks during calving season. The constant cow work hardened every young man, making top hands of anyone who dared enter the haunts of the wild Spanish cattle the vaqueros called "cimarrones" or wild cattle.

Cattle were never worth much more than the hides on their backs, although markets in Louisiana and Mississippi offered enough to make driving cattle to coastal markets profitable. Cattle had been driven from Texas to New Orleans and other markets since 1779.

Early in 1861 it was Print's turn to "point them

east," driving a small herd of young steers to Louisiana. He and his brother, Jay, proudly returned home with a packhorse "burdened down" with bolts of cloth and other household items for the womenfolk. Deep within a bedroll they had secreted three thousand dollars in gold coin.

Print and his brothers served in the Confederate Army, keeping them away from home for many years. Wounded in the hip and taken prisoner, Print was released and served the last years of the war guarding Galveston.

At the close of the Civil War Print returned home to find the area infested with rustlers. While dealing with rustlers the Olive brothers established themselves as successful drovers, annually driving cattle to northern markets. By 1876 rustling had become so troublesome that Print moved his operation to Nebraska, thinking that a new range would be more peaceful. But unscrupulous men can be found in any setting.

Cattle began to disappear once again. Worse still, Print's brother Bob was killed when he con-

born Barr

JJ Jones, Roots & Legacies Consulting

Jackie McClaskey, Kansas Dept. of Agriculture

Kristen Parman, Livestock Marketing Association

Lynn Parman, American Royal Association

Thompson extended his thanks to several out-

going leaders who have played an influential role in the Council's activities through the years. Those include Cliff Becker, outgoing Council Chairman and vice president, Farm Journal Media, as well as to outgoing long-time board members Jim Gray, Amber Spafford, and Steve Taylor.

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fronted one of the thieves. Luther Mitchell. Print and his men finally caught up to Mitchell and his partner Ami Ketchum. Justice was swift. The rustlers were found hanged and burned to a crisp about forty miles north of Plum Creek (present-day Lexington, Nebraska). One man was still hanging from the tree, the other had fallen to the ground after the rope that had extinguished his life had burned in two.

The trial of "the man burner" was front page news across the country. Print was found guilty of second degree murder and sentenced to life in the penitentiary. Twenty months later the Nebraska Supreme Court awarded a new trial in December of 1880.

On December 17, 1880, a blizzard raged outside the Custer County courthouse. Surrounded by friends and cattlemen Print stood before Judge E. J. Boblitts as attorney Beach Hinman reviewed

the case. Hinman reminded the court that the bold action taken against cattle thieves by Print Olive had caused unscrupulous men to leave the county. Harmony had returned. The judge agreed, admonishing Print to "live up-rightly." Noting the need for cattlemen to tend their stock "during these great storms presently raging," Print was discharged and the meeting concluded.

During a lull in the storm Print saddled up and braved the drifting snow. He reached Plum Creek and his family in time for a Christmas reunion. It was a Christmas they all would remember 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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# Fall anhydrous applications carry risks and rewards

As harvest winds down, many farmers begin applications of anhydrous ammonia before the frozen ground forces them to park their tractors for the winter. While this is a widespread practice, fall nitrogen (N) applications may not be the best source of N for next year's corn crop.

"There are several reasons why producers may want to apply anhydrous in the fall," says Andy Luke, University of Missouri Extension regional agronomy specialists. "With more acres being no-tilled than in the past, labor and equipment that were typically used for fall tillage are now available for applying anhy-

drous ammonia."

Mild temperatures in November and December also allow field work to be completed well after harvest has wrapped up, Luke says. In addition, prices for anhydrous ammonia are generally lower in the fall than in the spring, making fall applications economically beneficial to producers.

Finally, many farmers prefer having some N applied when spring arrives to ease the workload and prevent planter holdup when rainy weather or supply shortages prevent anhydrous from being applied, he says.

Anhydrous ammonia is applied to the soil in a gaseous form. Upon

reaching the soil, it interacts with clay particles, organic matter and soil water to form ammonium. The ammonium form of N is held to exchange sites and is not subject to loss in the soil. While ammonium is stable in the soil, it is often converted to nitrate through a microbial process called nitrification. Unfortunately, nitrogen in the nitrate form is subject to losses through leaching or denitrification. Leaching occurs when the nitrate form of N moves through the soil profile and out of the root zone with soil water. Denitrification happens when nitrogen converts to a gaseous form and is lost to the atmosphere. This

can include volatilization during application or through bacterial feeding on nitrate in the topsoil.

"What makes fall applications of anhydrous ammonia risky are unknown weather conditions that may lead to N loss before spring," Luke says.

Nitrification is a process driven by microbes in the soil. Therefore, when little microbial activity is occurring, N in the ammonium form is safe from losses.

"However, warm temperatures and moist soils increase nitrification and make it more likely that some applied N is lost before the corn crop has a chance to use it," he says.

Once soil temperatures

drop below 40 F, microbial activity nearly stops and nitrification no longer occurs. But warm, wet spells during the winter and spring months can raise soil temperatures and lead to nitrification and N losses.

If applying anhydrous ammonia in the fall, there are a few steps you can take to lower the risk for next year's corn crop, Luke says.

First, only apply ammonia after soil temperatures have reached 50 F and are falling. Be sure to use a nitrification inhibitor as well. While nitrification inhibitors cannot eliminate nitrification, they can help keep it in the immobile ammonium

form until it is ready to be used by the crop.

Always make sure soil conditions are right and that N is not being lost to volatilization at application. This includes checking that the knife tracks are sealing and that the equipment is not compacting the soil.

Lastly, do not apply all of the N that you are planning to use for next year's crop in the fall. "Think of a fall application as insurance that nitrogen will be available early for 2018's corn, but plan to supplement additional N to meet your growing crops requirement," he says.

# Gains, losses and relentless determination – a 40-year struggle for the soul of agriculture

By Tom Parker

Looking back on four decades of advocating for sustainable agricultural issues and policies, most of it on the federal level, Ferd Hoefner, Senior Strategic Advisor for the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC), has seen his share of gains, losses and missed opportunities. For every notable success, such as the implementation of the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program (SARE) in 1988, there was a notable loss.

But it is important to remember, Hoefner stated, that great advances have been made, and that despite continued obstacles to achieving good food and farm policies, a celebration is in order. "This is not the time to abandon the mission of reforming public policy at all levels," he said, "but rather a time to remain engaged, with even more passion than before."

Hoefner was a keynote speaker for "Driving the change that matters: Prac-

tical and political solutions for our farm and food future," the Kansas Rural Center's 2017 Farm and Food Conference, held Nov. 17-18 in Manhattan. Nearly 200 farmers, local food advocates, conservationists, and consumers gathered for two days of speakers and workshops, ranging from practical farming and marketing how-to's to policy analysis and organizing tips, and exhibitors focused on topics ranging from beekeeping to soil health and voting rights.

Hoefner addressed the crowd on the "past, present and future of sustainable agriculture," having spent the last 40 years addressing federal policies supporting long-term economic and environmental sustainability of agriculture, natural resources and rural communities. Hoefner started on this path in 1977 as a congressional intern working on the Farmer to Consumer Direct Marketing Act and the Urban Gardening Program.

It was a heady time to be working on farm issues. New innovations were being introduced and a new movement was emerging. Even Congress seemed ready to consider the "why" of the farm bill rather than simply tinkering with support programs. Title 1 was not the commodity title as it is now, but the family farm title, specifically stating that federal laws and programs should foster the family farm system of agriculture and that no policies or programs should be enacted or administered in a manner that would place the family farm operation at an unfair economic disadvantage. It also put commodity program payment limits front and center, rather than buried at the end of the commodity title.

Though it proved imperfect in practice, Hoefner said, the bill's payment limit provision at least attempted to target commodity benefits to moderate-scale agriculture, reducing coverage at the high-end to tamp down over-expansion and consolidation.

Following the passage of the 1977 farm bill, the USDA undertook the Structure of Agriculture project and the Organic Farming project, both of which led to two highly important USDA reports, Hoefner said. "A Time to Choose" profiled the federal policy changes needed to save and grow an agriculture backed by mid-size family farms, while the "Report and Recommendations on Organic

Agriculture" profiled the potential for widespread adoption of organic farming – a first for a USDA publication.

The euphoria was short-lived. Immediately following the 1980 election and the installation of the new administration, both reports were pulled, publication ceased, and the recommendations left on the cutting room floor.

During and following the farm crisis of the mid-1980s, many farmers started looking for alternatives to the "get big or get out" concept. They were looking at ways to reduce input costs and rely more on management and on-farm resources, as well as looking for ways to find increased value in the marketplace. Sustainable agricultural societies and grassroots organizations across the Midwest formed to change the direction of federal policy toward a more sustainable vision of agriculture. One of them, the Kansas Rural Center, was a vital contributor to those early organizing efforts, Hoefner said. Another was the Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, now known as the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC), which formed in the late 1980s.

The organization's goals were simple. "We argued for a seat at the table," he said. "We warned policymakers to not put all their eggs in one basket. We pleaded that they allow an alternative to have a chance. We argued for a fair share and a fair shake."

Winning congressional appropriations for the SARE program after it had been shelved for almost a decade was their first mission, and getting it off the ground was their first big win in 1988. Two years later the organization won the full-scale authorization of SARE into the 1990 Farm Bill. Other initiatives followed, including the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative, the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program, and the Small and Medium-Size Farm Viability Program.

"It was no coincidence that SARE and NSAC got started in the same year," he said. "The impact of our work to create and fund SARE has been hugely important to the movement. It's difficult to imagine where we would be in sustainable agriculture both now and in the future were it not for the combined \$75 million a year we are pumping into the four programs."

Support for new and beginning farmers has been a central tenet of the NSAC policy agenda from the 1990 farm bill to the present. "We have consistently kept the issue of the aging of American agriculture in front of Congress and the USDA," Hoefner said.

Also, with the newfound interest in soil health and cover crops really beginning to take off, Hoefner said, NSAC has been overwhelmed by the interest in a topic they have championed for decades in their conservation policy work. "We are trying to harness that broader support to gain stronger policy and better funding for working lands conservation, and also to better integrate conservation and soil health with the federal crop insurance program."

During the past decade, marketing issues have accelerated. Legislative wins included the Value-Added Producer Grant Program, the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program, the National Organic Certification Cost

Share Program, and others that were combined into the Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food Initiative passed during the Obama administration.

All of these programs required hard work and dedication to develop, launch and campaign for, Hoefner said. But when it came to tackling the Big Ag programs, whether commodity programs, crop insurance, tax shelters, CAFO regulations, or anti-trust and fair competition policy, the going got a lot tougher.

"Farm policy overall is stacked against diversification and farming in concert with the environment," he said. "Switching from the production system side of the equation to the structure of agriculture side, we have had nothing if not an agonizing time trying to get Congress and USDA to enact and implement real subsidy payment limitation reform to reduce incentives to over expansion and subsidized farm consolidation. We repeatedly seem to make progress, passing real reform measures on one side of Congress but not the other, or winning small reforms from Congress only to watch USDA undo them in the implementation phase."

Positive change will come only when we are able to construct a wider coalition of farmers, workers, and consumers who will stand up and fight for a better food policy, building a stronger power base to make fundamental change, he said.

NSAC and its member organizations are now focusing on the 2018 Farm Bill, but Hoefner expects it to be a difficult struggle. "Support for beginning farmers and new farming opportunities in Congress and even among agricultural interest groups is a mile wide and an inch deep," he said. "But for the sake of the future of a sustainable agriculture based on family farms, we really need to confront the barriers in a more systemic way and try to get support levels to a mile wide and a mile deep. The future of a more sustainable agriculture depends on it."

Policy, he said, is not the be all and end all, but it can help to move us in the right direction. It's also important to recognize that legislative successes happened from the grassroots up. "We know that the future of sustainable food systems at home and abroad hinge on how we respond to the challenges of today and prepare for the challenges of tomorrow, which are coming at us fast and furious."

"Sustainable farming tomorrow will not be exactly like that of today. The principles and values may remain constant, but the challenges and opportunities will continue to evolve, and in many respects intensify. That makes fighting the fight for more research dollars in general, and more dollars for sustainability, regeneration and resilience research in particular, more important than ever."

Hoefner's and other conference presentations are available on the KRC website at [www.kansasruralcenter.org](http://www.kansasruralcenter.org).



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# AROUND KANSAS



He's a Texan, educated in California, but Kansas is very special to him and it is obvious that Kansas feels the same way about Michael Martin Murphey.

Film producer Ken Spurgeon has worked with Murph on several projects and summed it up, "He is someone whose music is tied to the things he loves and one of those things is our American history, in particular the history of the West and the American cowboy.

"His love of the land is more than a song or mere words meant to generate a crowd. Murph lives out his love of history through what he sings, where he goes, and what causes he

campaigns for. Kansas and the American West have been kept alive by the music and the causes championed by Michael Martin Murphey."

We chose Murph to be our headliner at the 150th anniversary events at the Fort Wallace Museum this summer, just as Abilene chose him as the headliner for the 150th anniversary of the Chisholm Trail, just as the Symphony in the Flint Hills chose him to be their headliner in this historic year, and on and on.

Dr. Jake and I felt blessed to attend the wedding of Murph and his lovely bride Cindy Tune at the Cowboy Christmas celebration in Anson, Texas. We know

that you all join us in wishing them a loving and rich life together.

Now, when they return to Kansas, it will be as Mr. and Mrs. and we will welcome Cindy into the Kansas fold!

While on the subject of weddings, a hearty congratulations is sent to Rod and Dawn Beemer of Minneapolis who mark 50 years this December. We plan on joining them in their joyous and historic celebration. Rod is an author of many, many books and Dawn has worked in banking, but their greatest accomplishment is their family and the love they show to their fellow man. I have been the primary beneficiary of their generous spirit on many occasions.

We feel blessed to be a part of two celebrations of love and light this season. Wishing each of you the same.

*Deb Goodrich is the Garvey Historian in Residence at the Fort Wallace Museum and the cohort of Around Kansas. Contact her at author.debgoodrich@gmail.com.*

## New study identifies genetic basis for western corn rootworm resistance in maize

Farmers are stuck. Western corn rootworm can destroy cornfields – and profits – but populations of the "billion-dollar bug" have stopped responding to insecticides and the genetically modified corn hybrids designed to resist insect attacks. But there may be hope. In a new study, University of Illinois researchers uncovered the genetic basis of resistance to western corn rootworm, paving the way for development of non-GM corn hybrids that can withstand the worm.

"Our previous research showed that there is no inherent resistance in the elite hybrids grown by most farmers in the Midwest," says Martin Bohn, corn breeder in the Department of Crop Sciences at U of I. "We want to improve native resistance to western corn rootworm in maize, without using transgenics."

The work was done within the context of a large, longstanding project called Germplasm Enhancement of Maize (GEM), which aims to diversify the tools available to corn breeders by tap-

ping the genetic resources of maize accessions from all over the world.

"Some of my colleagues look into lines that yield more, some look into nutritional characteristics. We were screening for insect resistance. There were not that many, but we found some. We had to look into lines from Argentina, Brazil, and the Caribbean Islands to find it," Bohn says.

The resistant corn lines can't just be released here in the United States. For one thing, the plants are massive, leggy giants compared to the elite hybrids Midwestern farmers are used to growing. They're also adapted to very different environments, and wouldn't flower at the right time to produce reasonable yields.

By crossing exotic and elite lines, GEM created plants with a quarter of the genes of the exotics. Several of these lines remained promising with regard to their level of resistance.

But the team still didn't know why the new lines were resistant. "What is the genetic basis of resistance? If you find that,

then you can screen other exotic materials for resistance much more efficiently and effectively, with a more targeted approach," Bohn says.

The researchers haven't found the gene for resistance – Bohn says the trait is likely too complex for it to boil down to a single gene – but the group has identified regions of the genome that appear to contribute to resistance, using a technique known as QTL mapping. There were some common themes among the regions.

"When we look at other genes in these regions, one of the common denominators is ascorbate biosynthesis," Bohn says. In other words, one mechanism explaining western corn rootworm resistance might be the manufacture of ascorbate in the plant. The ascorbate synthesis pathway produces free radicals that injure feeding insects.

The analysis turned up another set of genes that may be involved in resistance, but this one is a little more complex. When western corn rootworm larvae are feeding

## Grass & Grain Auction Calendar

December 21 — Tractors & auto steer, semis, trucks, trailers, Cadillac, Corvette car & pickups, irrigation equipment & livestock equipment, machinery, 4-wheeler, lawn mowers & misc. near Sublette for Wayne Allen Trust. Auctioneers: Larry Johnston Auction.

December 22 — 300 acres Washington County, KS land in 3 tracts plus home in Washington held at Washington for the heirs of Ethel C. Peters. Auctioneers: Bott Realty & Auction.

January 1, 2018 — Harley Gerdes 33rd Annual New Years Day consignment including farm & construction equipment held at Lyndon. Auctioneers: Harley Gerdes Auction.

January 2, 2018 — Absolute Montgomery County farm equipment auction: tractors, skid steer, combine & heads, planting, seeding & more, tillage, trucks & trailers, mower, UTV, tanks, fuel tank & more at Montgomery City,

Missouri (online bidding at bidspotter.com) for Eric Harness & Penny Harness. Auctioneers: Wheeler Auctions & Real Estate.

January 6, 2018 — Furniture, Polynesian Rattan style furniture, pictures, decor, advertising signs, collectibles, household & misc. at Lawrence for Barbara Winn Estate. Auctioneers: Elston Auctions.

January 6, 2018 — Primitives & antique items held at Newton for one seller. Auctioneers: Auction Specialists, LLC.

January 11, 2018 — 161 acres Dickinson County cropland offered in 3 tracts held at Abilene for Henry & Phyllis Kolling. Auctioneers: Riordan Auction & Realty.

January 13, 2018 — Approx. 1,000 pieces of Fiesta collection held at Salina for Majorie Thorup Estate. Auctioneers: Thummel Real Estate & Auction, LLC.

January 20, 2018 — Retirement auction: Tractors, loaders, combines, headers, trailers, ag manage-

ment solutions equipment, planters & drill, haying equipment, sprayer, anhydrous applicator, tillage & other machinery, Gator, pickups, trucks, trailers, grain bins held near Blaine for R&R Suther Farms, Ralph, Ron and Dan Suther. Auctioneers: Cline Realty & Auction, LLC.

January 22, 2018 — 160 acres land auction held at Gridley. Auctioneers: Swift-N-Sure Auctions.

February 3, 2018 — Farm machinery at Washington for Leroy & Donna Long. Auctioneers: Bott Realty & Auction.

February 24, 2018 — Coins at Emporia. Auctioneers: Swift-N-Sure Auctions.

March 6, 2018 — Bull sale at Lacrosse for Cornwell Farms.

March 10, 2018 — Concordia Optimist Club Annual consignment auction held at Concordia. Auctioneers: Thummel Auctions.

bard from USDA-ARS, K. Dashiell from the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Nigeria, and D. Willmot from AgReliant Genetics.

The work was partially supported by funds from the USDA-ARS "Germplasm Enhancement in 477 Maize" Project by Specific Cooperative Agreements and the Hatch Project ILLU-802-315.

## AUCTION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2018 — 9:30 AM  
400 Grandview (Armory) — NEWTON, KANSAS

*This is a small sampling of the primitive & antique items on the auction. Many Boxes are from early 90's storage & are yet to be opened. This sale is a follow-up to the great sale last October! ONE SELLER!*

Hay Fork Patio Table; Trunks; Iron Wheeled Engine Truck; Patio Table/Iron Wheels; 4 Sided Island; Cocks; #5 Crock Jug; Crock Water Dispenser/Blue Ring; Kerosene Dispenser; Wooden Boxes; Desk; Benches; 16, 24 & 34 Wooden Drawer Organizers; Tall Pie Safe; Counter Top Glass Display Case; Parlor Table; Child Size Oak Carpenter Work Table; 5-Drawer Child's Chest; Feed Store 4-Wheel Dolly, **MUCH MORE!**

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## Calving school to be held in Concordia January 3

Kansas State Research and Extension is gearing up for their winter programming season. River Valley Extension along with its partners, Post Rock, Midway, and Central Kansas Districts, are pleased to announce they will be hosting a calving school in Concordia. They will welcome Dr. A.J. Tarpo, KSU Extension veterinarian, to speak about various calving positioning as well as timing restraints during the calving process. This workshop will take place with an educational cow that is able to contain a rubber calf. It is as close to a real-life scenario as you can possibly get. The beauty of it all is that Dr. Tarpo never has to get kicked or ran out of the pen.

They will also welcome Dr. Justin Waggoner, KSU Beef Extension specialist, to speak on pre and post calving nutrition. If you haven't had a chance to hear Dr. Waggoner speak, he is a producer favorite as he is very discussion-oriented while being extremely helpful to producers in the area of nutrition.

This educational event will take place on January 3rd at the Cloud County Fairgrounds 4-H Building in Concordia at 6:00 p.m. Please send an RSVP to the Washington Extension Office at 785-325-2121 to ensure an accurate meal count. There will be a meal provided and this workshop is free of charge. A huge thank you goes out

to Cloud County Co-op and Tallgrass Veterinary Clinic for sponsoring this event. For any questions regarding the calving school,

please contact Katelyn Brockus at 785-325-2121 or kbrockus@ksu.edu. They look forward to seeing you on January 3rd, 2018.

**THE HENRY AND PHYLLIS KOLLING LAND**

**161 ACRES**

**Dickinson County Cropland Offered in 3 Tracts**

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** These well-located farms have been owned by the same family since the 1870's and offer the opportunity to purchase good, productive cropland in an area where land seldom changes hands. Visit [www.riordanauction.com](http://www.riordanauction.com) for soil maps, FSA photos and other information.

**TRACT #1:** 17.5 surveyed cropland acres in SW corner of SW/4 of 17-13-4E. (all in wheat). Borders blacktop Rain Road. Predominately Irwin, Class II soil. 2017 taxes were \$221.79 based on 17.5 taxable acres. Survey on website.

**TRACT #2:** 63.18 survey acres in E/2SW/4 of 17-13-4E (all open). Borders good gravel 2200 Ave. Predominately Irwin Class II soil. 2017 taxes were \$875.61 based on 63.18 acres. Survey on website.

**FSA INFORMATION:**

	Farmland Acres	Cropland Acres	Wheat Base/Yield	Sorghum Base/Yield	Soybean Base/Yield
Tract #1	19.28	15.51	7.5/50	4.52/71	2.5/23
Tract #2	62.33	62.33	29.2/50	17.61/71	9.74/23
Tract #3	80.64	80.64	37.1/50	22.70/71	12.57/23

The above are FSA estimates only and are not guaranteed.

**TRACT #3:** E/2 NW/4 of 20-13-4E. 67.0 acres tillable (all in wheat). 11.0 acres waterways, balance waste. Good gravel 2200 Avenue Road along north boundary. Soil is 60% Irwin, Class II; 40% Irwin, Class III. 2017 taxes were \$973.12 based on 80.7 taxable acres.

**POSSESSION:** Farm selling subject to existing tenant rights of David Giebler.

**Wheat Ground:** After 2018 harvest. Buyer to receive \$45.00 per acre cash rent credit at closing based on planted wheat acres.

**Open Ground and Waterways:** March 1, 2018

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**FARMLAND AUCTION**

Thursday, January 11, 2018  
7:30 p.m.

Sale held at the Abilene Civic Center  
201 NW Second, Abilene, Kansas

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**  
10% due day of sale, with balance due 2-16-2018. If for some reason title conveyance cannot be completed by 2-16-2018, Buyer to pay 10% per annum interest on unpaid balance from 2-16-2018 until date sales are closed.

2017 real estate taxes and prior years paid by Seller. Title Insurance will be used with cost split equally between Buyer and Seller. All mineral rights owned sell with property. Property selling "as is" with no guarantees or warranties made by Seller.

Announcements made at the auction take precedence. All information given is from sources deemed reliable, but not guaranteed. Property selling subject to easements, restrictions and reservations if now existing. Auction Company is representing the Sellers in this transaction.

**SELLERS:** Henry and Phyllis Kolling Chapman, Kansas

## Montgomery County Farm Equipment Auction

**Tuesday, January 2, 2018 • 10 AM**

**AUCTION LOCATION:**  
**MONTGOMERY COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**  
**Hwy. 19 South edge of Montgomery City, MO 63361**

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## Meatless meat won't compete with real meat for now

A new study from Co-Bank, a cooperative bank that services agribusinesses, says that it is unlikely that meatless meat will have a market effect on real meat companies for now.

The road to commercial viability and consumer acceptance of protein products from plants, insects and cultured meats is at least a decade away, and even though the alternative

protein category will grow in the coming years, it will be overshadowed by the current retail market size of \$49 billion in annual sales for all meat and poultry categories, according to the

report.

The report notes that cultured meat products are expensive and will require a regulatory framework before they enter the market.



# BAXTER BLACK

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

## What's Christmas to a Cow?

I know you've probly asked yourself, what's Christmas to a cow?

You've not! Well maybe, just perchance I've got you thinkin' now,

When we march out on Christmas morn like nothin's goin' on,

Has Yuletide struck the night before and disappeared by dawn?

Were plastic sleeves a-hangin' up around the calvin' shed?

Did visions of molasses blocks cavort inside her head?

And did she lay awake all night tensed up anticipating

Or, in excitement, milk her bed by accident, while waiting?

Do cows pretend to be just cows, devoid of all intrigues

But really lead a secret life like women's bowling leagues?

Did we just miss the mistletoe? Did all the clues elude us?

Does she believe in Santa Claus or just Santa Gertrudis?

And if we looked would

we see sign of reindeer in the pen

Or would we just convince ourselves the goat got out again?

And after we'd all gone to bed would they join in a hymn

And sing that little manger song they learned in Bethlehem?

I guess that it don't matter much if cows believe or not.

We'll fork her out a flake of hay and head back in a trot

To celebrate our Christmas Day and all that we espouse

And when we say our dinner grace we'll thank him for the cows.

For the livelihood they give us and life we get to share.

But do the cows have Christmas cheer?

Who knows, but just beware if you see chicken tracks among the straw

and drying chips, you better check suspicious cows for eggnog on their lips.

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# Farmers & Ranchers

## AUCTIONS EVERY MONDAY & THURSDAY

### Selling Hogs & Cattle every Monday

RECEIPTS FOR THE WEEK TOTALED 3,468 CATTLE AND 102 HOGS.

#### STEERS

300-400	\$188.00 - \$202.00
400-500	\$183.00 - \$200.00
500-600	\$172.50 - \$186.00
600-700	\$161.00 - \$174.00
700-800	\$145.00 - \$155.00
800-900	\$140.00 - \$148.00
900-1000	\$132.00 - \$143.50

#### HEIFERS

300-400	\$170.00 - \$183.00
400-500	\$152.00 - \$166.00
500-600	\$152.00 - \$166.00
600-700	\$148.00 - \$161.00
700-800	\$135.00 - \$146.00
800-900	\$130.00 - \$141.75
900-1000	\$122.50 - \$134.50

#### STEERS

4 blk	Garden Plain	391@202.00
10 blk	Garden Plain	463@200.00
2 blk	Salina	340@198.00
3 blk	Durham	340@197.00
5 blk	Sedgwick	425@195.00
7 red	Lincoln	465@195.00
4 blk	Durham	471@187.00
8 blk	Falun	501@186.00
7 blk	Delphos	519@186.00
4 blk	Marquette	504@186.00
20 mix	Garden Plain	541@184.50
11 blk	Sedgwick	528@181.00
22 blk	Falun	579@179.00
3 mix	Lyons	543@175.00
10 blk	Lehigh	584@175.00
5 blk	Galva	630@174.00
9 char	Culver	601@169.50
11 blk	Tescott	612@169.00
7 mix	Lincoln	614@168.50
16 blk	Inman	596@168.00
14 blk	Tescott	720@155.00
10 blk	Barnard	770@155.00
11 blk	Greenleaf	731@152.00
64 mix	Marion	769@151.75
8 blk	Marquette	778@150.00
9 char	Culver	743@148.00
61 mix	Marion	842@148.00
32 blk	Greenleaf	834@147.00
4 blk	Beloit	898@145.00
14 mix	McPherson	902@143.50
13 blk	Greenleaf	945@142.00
57 mix	Herington	931@141.75

#### HEIFERS

11 blk	Sedgwick	359@183.00
16 mix	Falun	527@172.00
9 blk	Durham	504@171.00
4 blk	Inman	539@169.00
15 blk	Lorraine	547@167.00
29 blk	Sedgwick	459@166.00
16 blk	Salina	494@166.00
20 blk	Minneapolis	521@165.00

18 blk	Sedgwick	505@163.00
8 mix	Wilsey	566@161.00
3 mix	Falun	603@161.00
8 blk	Garden Plain	549@160.50
20 blk	Garden Plain	479@160.00
4 blk	Marquette	554@159.50
13 blk	Delphos	543@159.00
34 blk	Minneapolis	579@158.00
14 mix	Lindsborg	576@156.00
16 blk	Marquette	607@154.50
11 blk	Courtland	596@152.50
21 blk	Geneseo	659@152.00
11 red	Sedgwick	602@150.00
19 mix	Courtland	690@148.50
15 mix	Whitewater	661@148.00
2 blk	Whitewater	710@146.00
7 char	Culver	639@145.00
21 mix	Clay Center	742@142.50
6 char	Bunker Hill	723@142.00
63 blk	Hope	886@141.75
3 mix	Lincoln	813@141.00
59 mix	Tescott	834@140.75
62 mix	Tampa	860@140.75
67 blk	Beloit	822@140.50
59 mix	Assaria	797@140.00
7 blk	Wilsey	864@137.00
89 mix	Whitewater	873@135.50
8 blk	Lorraine	929@134.50

#### CALVES

1 blk	Miltonvale	315@525.00/HD
1 blk	Miltonvale	210@475.00/HD
1 bwf	Abilene	245@460.00/HD
1 bwf	Gypsum	255@460.00/HD
3 blk	Lindsborg	220@425.00/HD
1 blk	Tampa	105@350.00/HD
1 bwf	Beverly	100@325.00/HD

#### COWS

2 blk	Chapman	1430@64.00
1 blk	Abilene	1580@62.00
1 red	Abilene	1215@58.00
1 blk	Abilene	1960@56.50
1 blk	Ada	1600@56.50
3 blk	Beloit	1625@56.00
3 blk	Hillsboro	1633@56.00

#### BULLS

1 red	Abilene	1855@80.00
1 blk	Gypsum	2020@76.50
1 blk	Gypsum	1965@74.50
1 blk	Clay Center	1815@73.00

#### SOWS

7 wht	Abilene	579@34.00
6 wht	Abilene	509@30.50

#### HOGS

7 wht	Waldo	283@42.00
11 mix	Waldo	258@42.00
8 mix	Newton	283@41.25
12 mix	Esbon	266@41.00
5 mix	Kanopolis	280@40.00

#### EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 4:

50 Mostly Steers, Weaned, Home Raised, All Vacc.'s. 750. 90 Black Steers, 600-750. 27 Black Steers & Heifers, 60 Days Weaned, 2nd Round Vacc. 500-650. 11 Black Steers & Heifers, 60 Days Weaned, 2nd Round Vacc. 500-650. 65 Steers & Heifers, Weaned Nov. 1st, Vacc, Wormed, 650. 100 Steers, Home Raised, 750-800. 100 Heifers, Home Raised, 700-750. 26 Steers & Heifers, Home Raised, Weaned, 2nd Round Vacc, 700. 7 Steers & Heifers, Black, 450-650. 90 Black Steers & Heifers, Weaned & Vacc, 600-800.

#### EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 11:

147 Black Steers, Long Weaned, Vacc, 500-750. 20 Black Heifers, Long Weaned, Vacc, 500-600.

#### IN STOCK TODAY:

- Heavy Duty Round Bale Feeders
- 6'8" X 24' GOOSENECK STOCK TRAILER METAL TOP
- 6'8" X 24' GOOSENECK STOCK TRAILER
- 6'8" X 24' GR Stock Trailer Metal Top

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Check our listings each week on our website at [www.fandrlive.com](http://www.fandrlive.com)



Cattle Sale Broadcast Live on [LMAAuctions.com](http://LMAAuctions.com) 1150 KSAL, Salina 6:45 AM -MON.FRI \* 880 KRVN 8:40 AM - WED.-THURS. \*550AM KFRM - 8:00 am, Wed.-Thurs.