



Kansas Corn Growers Association board members, officers elected

Kansas Corn Growers Association members elected board members, discussed and approved the 2024 resolutions and heard updates on KCGA activities at the organization's annual meeting. The annual meeting was conducted at the Kansas Corn Symposium held in Salina on Jan. 25.

Three board members were re-elected to their positions: Tanner McNinch, Ness City, was re-elected to represent the west central district; Matt Splitter, Lyons, was re-elected to represent the central district and J.D. Hanna, Silver Lake, was re-elected to represent the east central district. At its reorganizational meeting following the annual meeting, the KCGA board of directors elected the following officers: J.D. Hanna, president; Matt Splitter, vice president; Brett Grauerholz, Republic, secretary, and Emma Jenks, Perry, treasurer. Outgoing



2024 KCGA officers from left are: J.D. Hanna, president; Emma Jenks, treasurer; Matt Splitter, vice president and Brett Grauerholz, secretary.

KCGA president Brent Rogers, Hoxie, was recognized at the event for his years of leadership. Rogers retired from his position as president and remains on the board as the northwest district representative.

Kansas Leaders serve on NCGA action teams, committees

Several Kansas Corn leaders are active on National Corn Growers Association action teams and committees. The 2024 NCGA action teams met in St. Louis in

early January. Kansas Corn leaders and staff appointed to NCGA Action Teams are as follows. Chad Epler, Columbus, serves as vice chair of the Market Development Action Team; Brett Grauerholz, Republic, serves on the Production Technology Access Action Team; Brent Rogers, Hoxie, serves on the Risk Management and Transportation Action Team; Tanner McNinch, Ness City, serves on the Stewardship Ac-

tion Team; Sue Schulte, Kansas Corn staff, serves on the Member and Consumer Engagement Action Team. Rogers also serves on the NCGA Nominating Committee and Epler serves on the Resolutions Committee. Matt Splitter, Lyons, represents NCGA on the FCC Precision Agriculture Connectivity Task Force - Mapping and Analyzing Connectivity on Agricultural Lands Working Group.

Kansas Wheat talks policy at home and in the nation's capital

By Julia Debes

Kansas wheat farmers voiced their concerns and priorities for the next Farm Bill recently — both at home during the 2024 Kansas Commodity Classic and in the nation's capital as part of national winter wheat meetings.

"Having farmers ask questions directly about policies and provide their perspective on what's going on in farm country adds emphasis and personal impact to national policy discussions," said Shayna DeGroot, Kansas Wheat director of membership and government affairs, who accompanied the group. "These face-to-face conversations fill in knowledge gaps and present solutions that are generally well-received by our ag-friendly Congressional and national association staff."

In Washington, D.C., the Kansas delegation met with counterparts from across the country

during the NAWG/USW Winter Conference, which brings together both the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) — the industry's policy arm — and U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) — the export market development organization dedicated to promoting wheat in international markets.

As part of the larger fly-in organized by NAWG, Kansas wheat farmers and staff took to the Hill to communicate the importance of getting a Farm Bill passed before the current one-year extension expires and providing their input on meaningful changes that would benefit Kansas wheat producers. The delegation included DeGroot; Tyler Millershaski, KAWG president from Lakin; Clay Schemm, at-large KAWG board member from Sharon Springs; Brian Linin, past chairman of the

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Going to the head of the class, Junction City FFA receives state honor for agriculture program

By Amy Hadachek

In an exciting state honor for empowering students, Junction City FFA's agriculture program at Junction City High School was just recognized as an "Outstanding Secondary Program" at the Mid-Winter Symposium Jan. 20 in Wichita. The honor was awarded by the Kansas Association of Agricultural Educators, the professional organization for ag teachers. Ag education is part of a three-circle model which includes Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs), classroom instruction and FFA.

"We applied for it and we're really excited that our program got that honor this year," said Laura Miller, who is the co-advisor for Junction City FFA, along with agriculture education teacher Ashley Vahsholtz.

The chapter is six years old and has a large percentage of rural students. The high school in Geary County is a large school in Junction City, which has a large military presence.

The application process highlighted how the two advisors teach in their classroom and their work-based learning, as well as projects that the FFA chapter has accomplished. It's a snapshot of how they do 'ag ed' at Junction City.

"Our chapter has done a clothing drive, canned food drive, and a pet supply drive to help support our community. We work hard to build positive relationships within our community — who support our students and chapter. We also compete on the local, state,



Junction City FFA thrives on being active in the community, and finding ways to give back and serve. This year they teamed up with the athletic department to hold their canned food drive during the home basketball opener.



Agriculture education happens at all levels, and the Junction City FFA chapter enjoys working in the early learning classroom to bring fun activities involving agriculture.



Junction City Ag Ed was named Outstanding Middle/Secondary Program at the KAAE Mid-Winter Symposium in Wichita Jan. 20, 2024. Pictured, from left are: Dr. Kelly Hoelting, 2023-24 KAAE president, with Junction City FFA co-advisors Ashley Vahsholtz and Laura Miller.

and national level with different career and leadership development events," Miller said.

The application included letters of support from community members, their principals and others.

"The committee chooses an outstanding program every year — and this year they chose us," Miller said. "I like to say Geary County is smaller in size, but mighty, and has a close-knit ag community that really supports its students, schools, and I appreciate what we have here," Miller said.

Find a place where you fit, and create solid relationships, she recommends, and students will be willing to come into your classroom and others will support your endeavors.

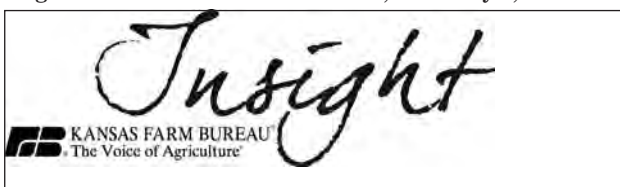
Moving to a two-teacher program was pivotal. FFA membership tripled from last year's 67 members to 215 this school year, after they were able to start adding more class-

es, said Miller, who is in her ninth year at Junction City High School.

What's special about their chapter is the diversity and students interested in trying new things.

"If someone knows that sports isn't their thing, they have a chance to try something different. We're not directly a rural commu-

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The Sun'll Come Out

By Kim Baldwin,
McPherson County
farmer and rancher

Looking at my large paper calendar prominently on display in the mudroom, I know January has 31 days. However, after wickedly cold temperatures, a hefty dose of snow and an equally hefty dose of strong winds that drifted shut roads and kept our kids from going to school for many days this month, I'm convinced the January on my calendar is missing some days.

Don't get me wrong, we have desperately needed moisture for a while, and I am grateful we received many inches of frozen precipitation in January.

However, I can't remember the last time I saw the sun!

It seems as though as soon as the excessive cold left our area and the temperatures slowly started to rise, a cloud of cold mist and dark, heavy fog has remained.

Headlights during the day have been the norm around here lately as have slower speeds. I've caught myself mul-

iple times commenting on the thick fog or it being another dark and dreary day.

While temperatures have remained mostly just above freezing since the mist and fog rolled in, the sun has rarely come out. Thus, the piles of snow and ice have now mostly melted down to slush due to the just-above-freezing temps and the lingering mist. Overall, it's become a very muddy mess.

My mudroom has quite literally become just that – a mud room. I've avoided taking my car to the car wash even though it's well beyond the point of needing to be scrubbed and hosed down because wherever you go it's mucky.

I keep thinking that if the sun would just push through, the mess that has been created following our recent snowstorms would begin to dry up.

After listening to a presentation about weather patterns and the long range forecast given by a trusted meteorologist, it sounds like the wet start to 2024 will continue into the com-

ing months due to El Nino.

I'm preparing myself for more slush, more overcast days, and more mud.

While driving home from this weather presentation in the fog with my windshield wipers going and my headlights on, I caught myself humming a tune from a movie I first watched as a child in the early 1980s.

The humming transitioned to me talking out loud saying, "The sun'll come out tomorrow."

And soon I was belting out, "Tomorrow, tomorrow, I love you, tomorrow. You're always a day away."

While there are still a few cloudy days and chances of rain in the near future, there is also some sun in the forecast.

As we perhaps continue to experience cold and wet days this winter, and the mud seems to linger, remember the sun will eventually come out. After all, there's always tomorrow. It's only a day away.

"Insight" is a weekly column published by Kansas Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm organization whose mission is to strengthen agriculture and the lives of Kansans through advocacy, education and service.



Prairie Ponderings

By Donna Sullivan

Last week our Riley County Extension agriculture and natural resources agent, Greg McClure, retired. He's been a part of our family's life for about thirty years, not only as an Extension agent, but for a while as a neighbor, and always as a friend. He was also a mentor to our kids. When our boys were pretty young, he started having them do his chores when he was away. He'd show them what to do, leave a list and take off for wherever he was headed, trusting they would take care of things. And they did.

An aspect of parenting that I think also carries over into professions such as teaching or youth Extension work is recognizing that you're not really dealing with children – you're dealing with future adults. So, when you start with that end in mind, it affects much of what you do. I can honestly say Greg never treated our kids like kids. Oh sure, he laughed and joked with them, even chastised them if necessary and good-naturedly accepted being dunked in the stock tank at the Fair. But when push came to shove, he made it quite clear he expected them to handle their responsibilities, whether it was doing his chores or meeting their 4-H obligations, in a mature, reliable fashion. I believe most of the time they, and the majority of other 4-H'ers he dealt with, lived up to his expectations.

I have so much respect for people who take the time to pour energy, wisdom and life lessons into kids, whether it's 4-H agents and club leaders, FFA advisors, Sunday School teachers, classroom instructors, neighbors and the list goes on and on; people who fill in the gaps of areas or topics parents themselves are not gifted in. Then we turn around and do the same for other kids. It's an amazing, wonderful cycle that I think should be celebrated every chance we get.

As he leaves his job in Extension, I hope retirement holds all the wonderful things for Greg that he is dreaming of. I also hope he knows that all his efforts were deeply appreciated by parents like us whose kids benefited from his guidance and friendship.

He says he'll still come to the fair, and I hope that's true. The next generation of Sullivan kids still have a few tricks up their sleeves – that may or may not involve the stock tank.

Kansas Department of Revenue announces launch of online portal for property value information

The Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR), in partnership with Tyler Technologies, announced the launch of Assessment Connect, a new application that will allow KDOR's Property Valuation Division to access statewide property appraisal data and provide improved analytical tools for county appraisers. In addition, the project will feature the Kansas Property

Valuation Division Data Portal, an open data, public facing website with up-to-date and easily accessible property value information.

The launch of Assessment Connect is part of the KDOR's ongoing efforts to streamline the property appraisal process and increase transparency and accountability. By making this data available to the public, KDOR hopes to empower citizens to

make informed decisions about their property and their community.

"We're excited to launch this new site and provide Kansans with easy access to important property valuation data," said David Harper, KDOR property valuation division director. "We believe that transparency is key to building trust between government and citizens, and this site is an important step in that direction."

The open data portal of Assessment Connect will feature appraised value data on all property types from every county in Kansas. Kansans will be able to view the most up-to-date data in easily readable charts and graphs.

Assessment Connect was funded by a grant from the Information Network of Kansas (INK).

The site is available to the public free of charge and can be viewed at <https://ksopendata.ksrevenue.gov/>



The sense of timing with inanimate objects in my life is amazing. We hear all about artificial intelligence (does anyone else giggle when the term A.I. is brought up in mainstream media?) and I am convinced that we are already living with it, and it is evil. Well, at least the appliances I live with are evil.

Jennifer and I were about to leave for the American Farm Bureau annual meeting in Salt Lake City and our washing machine decided to quit working that week. During lambing and calving season our washing machine is about the most critical machine we have on our farm. We do loads of dirty sheep towels, grungy jeans, and foul shirts. The volume of wash is endless.

Top that off with three days of meetings where I had to dress up ahead of leaving for Salt Lake City. I do not know about the rest of you but after three days of dress clothes I am starting into the B team, and I want my first-string dress clothes for those meetings. Not to mention that the washer being down for several days had cut into my supply of other more critical garments.

Back in the day when I was a college student and I came home every three weeks or so, I could survive for three weeks without washing. I no longer have that many clothes and I care about how I dress, so a week is about as long as I can go without critical shortages.

Here is the part that raises my blood pressure. The problem with our washer, which is less than two years old, is that the filter is plugged. I cannot imagine why it would be plugged this time of the year, washing muddy jeans and nasty lambing towels. Our other washers have had the same problem, but with them, the filter was in the lower part of the front. You pulled a door off, pulled out the filter, made a horrible mess, washed it out and away you went.

One would think that engineers at Whirlpool would have refined the filters and made them better and easier to maintain. At least that is what I would have thought. I was wrong. First thing we noticed was that there was no access door at the front. So, I looked it up on YouTube.

What looked like my washer had you accessing the filter from a rear panel that had about twelve screws one had to take out to get it off. Jennifer grew tired of waiting on me, so she took them off

and could not find the filter. She called our repairman, and he told her that the filter was only accessible from the front and while we could try to get to it, we would be calling him in the end.

She relayed all this information to me; I chose to ignore it and went looking for the filter myself. Do you know what? It is in the front of the machine and only accessible if you dismantle the whole thing. Terrible things went through my mind, like driving to wherever the engineers for Whirlpool are located and giving them what was left of my mind.

The reality was I had no idea where that was and had no time to make such a trip. Thankfully, our renter at my grandmother's house offered to let us use his washing machine and after three loads the critical clothes were washed. A week later we were waiting for the repairman (we only have one and he recently had surgery) and we have made three trips to the laundromat with a fourth coming any day.

That is where I am sure A.I. (and not the fun kind that produces calves) comes into play. Why else would our washer have decided to stop working when we needed it the most? Right when the need for dress clothes coincided with lambing season laundry and a limited amount of time. I absolutely know it was a planned and designed outage to drive up my blood pressure.

Much like the refrigerator going out on the hottest day of the year, a flat tire when you are in a hurry or my computer deciding to update with a shutdown in the middle of a Zoom meeting, I am sure the machines are conspiring against mankind.

My best solution is for us all to go off the grid. Well, it was until I thought about living without air conditioning, television, and microwaves. That and the fact that we would rely on animals like horses for transportation and I am also convinced that the animals are plotting a coup, as well.

I am waiting on the repairman to come today, otherwise I would either be planning a trip to the laundromat wearing combinations of clothes that should not be seen in public, or becoming a hermit. When, or maybe if, you see me, you will know which option I chose. In the meantime, I will be trying to decide which machine will be the next to make my life miserable.

Country Chuckles by Jonny Hawkins



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Junction City FFA receives state honor for agriculture program

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 nity... but it's cool to see the kids step out of their comfort zones and try an agricultural experience," said Vahsholtz who is enjoying her first year at Junction City. Previously, she taught in the region at Solomon Junior/Senior High School for two years, and Clay Center Community High School for five years.

Both advisors grew up on farms.

It's also award season for state degrees and proficiency applications. The chapter has been preparing for

district contests, which will include public speaking and employability skills in early February. Poultry judging and marketing plan contests were set for Feb. 7. "Our teams have been preparing to submit proficiency award applications for the chance to move onto state selection later," Miller said. Selection Day is Feb. 28 in Minneapolis. Proficiency Awards are based on a student's SAE or work-based learning project. Some Junction City FFA members are eligible for their American

degrees; with applications due in mid-February. A new project particularly exciting is Junction City FFA's forthcoming greenhouse. They received a grant and the framework is done and the roof is up. The greenhouse is expected to be operational next fall, and the chapter is looking forward to growing their own plants.

FFA members are actively involved in chapter events, as well as service learning and community events. Kids love agri-science research, Miller said. The

students are working on their "Kibbles and Bits" project to raise donations for a local animal shelter. They have also been preparing for National FFA Week Feb. 17-24, 2024 with a fun line-up of activities:

Monday: FFA shirt/Blue and Gold Day
 Tuesday: Camo (hunting camouflage) food safety lessons

Wednesday: Western Day and Teacher Appreciation Breakfast

Thursday: Dress like an advisor day, Careers in ag panel

Friday: Red, White, and Blue - and Drive Your Tractor to School Day, and bowling night for the chapter.

"In my nine years here, I've watched this program grow, and I'm really grateful for the community that supports us, and for the

kids who come in the classrooms... and who wonder where their food and clothes come from," Miller said. She reflected that every ag program is unique to

the community it's in. "Try it, see if you like it, if not - try something else you like," Miller said. "If you do love it, keep going until you're the best at it."

Italy pioneers ban on lab-grown meat

Italy recently made history by becoming the first European Union nation to officially ban the production and sale of lab-grown or cultivated meat, sparking a global debate about the intersection of tradition, innovation and the future of food. The legislation, enacted in November 2023, restricts the cultivation of meat in laboratory bioreactors and places limitations on the use of labels describing and marketing plant-based protein as meat.

As one might expect, the Italian government's action has been met with support and criticism. Italy's Agriculture Minister Francesco Lollobrigida proudly declared the nation's commitment to preserving its rich food traditions while protecting its farmers. The law, viewed as protectionist by some, aims to safeguard the age-old relationship between food, land and the human work that has characterized Italy for millennia.

McGinn named Assistant Secretary of Agriculture

Secretary of Agriculture Mike Beam has announced that Josh McGinn has been named Assistant Secretary of Agriculture at the Kansas Department of Agriculture. McGinn began serving in the role on January 22.

"The Kansas Department of Agriculture is fortunate to have the leadership and expertise that Josh brings to our team," said Beam. "His agriculture background and commitment to public service makes him a perfect fit for KDA. In particular, his work in the state's Office of Rural Prosperity provides a perfect foundation for the support we offer the state's farmers, ranchers, and agribusiness."

McGinn will take a significant role in the legislative agenda for KDA, including research and analysis of legislative issues and developing and supporting the legislative priorities of the agency. He will also assist the Secretary on development of agricultural and rural development issues and policies that can improve the landscape for Kansas agriculture. He looks forward to this opportunity to advocate for Kansas farmers and ranchers on issues affecting the agriculture community at the state and federal

level. McGinn has been part of the Kelly administration for nearly five years, serving as one of the first employees of the Office of Rural Prosperity and then as a Senior Policy Analyst and Deputy Director for Budget and Policy. He most recently served as policy director within the Governor's office.

McGinn grew up on a fifth-generation farm outside of Sedgwick, where his family farms dryland and irrigated crops with recent expansion into specialty crops and agritourism. He attended Kansas State University where he earned a bachelor's degree in English with minors in history and leadership studies.

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GRASS & GRAIN *Our Daily Bread*

***** By G&G Area Cooks *****

Cheryl Flory, Lawrence, Wins This Week's Grass & Grain Recipe Contest

Winner Cheryl Flory, Lawrence: "This recipe is a Super Bowl favorite at our house."

BARB'S CHEESE BALL

(2) 8-ounce packages cream cheese
1/4 cup finely chopped onion
1 small can crushed pineapple, drained
1 tablespoon Lawry's seasoned salt
2 cups ground pecans (I put pecan halves in nut grinder)
Soften the cream cheese. Add 1 cup chopped pecans. Add onion, drained pineapple and seasoned salt. Form into a ball and roll in remaining cup of chopped pecans. Chill. Keeps well.

Rose Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma:

POTATO CAKES

2 cups leftover mashed potatoes
1/4 cup flour
1/4 cup milk
1 egg
1 tablespoon minced onion
Salt & pepper to taste
Bacon drippings or oil
Heat drippings or oil. Mix remaining ingredients together. Form into patties. Fry on each side. Drain on paper towels. Serve hot.

Katrina Morgan, Americus:

CROCK-POT

CHICKEN & NOODLES
4 boneless skinless chicken breasts
2 cans cream of chicken soup
1 2/3 cup of stick butter or margarine
32-ounce box chicken broth
12-ounce package frozen egg noodles
1 tablespoon dry onion flakes, if desired
2 stalks celery, sliced, if desired
Cook chicken, soup, butter and broth in crock-pot on low for 6-7 hours. Take chicken out and shred with a fork. Put chicken back in crock-pot. Slowly stir

in noodles (and onion flakes and celery if using) and continue cooking on low for 2 hours. Stir a few times while cooking.

Kellee George, Shawnee:

FROZEN SALAD

8 ounces cream cheese
2 cups Cool Whip
1 pint strawberries, sliced
2 large bananas, chopped & diced
20 ounces crushed pineapple, drained
Beat cream cheese and Cool Whip. Add remaining ingredients. Put in a 9-by-13-inch pan. Freeze. Thaw lightly; cut into squares and serve.

Walk With Ease Fredonia

Kansas State Research and Extension - Wildcat District is putting on a Walk with Ease program every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from February 19-March 29. Walkers will meet three days a week for six weeks from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at the First National Bank in Fredonia 4-H Learning Center located at 10392 Jade Road in Fredonia.
This is a beginner's

Millie Conger, Tecumseh: "Great dip with graham crackers."

CHERRY DIP

8 ounces cream cheese
7-ounce jar marshmallow creme
8 ounces Cool Whip
1 can cherry pie filling
Mix cream cheese and marshmallow creme. Fold in Cool Whip. Spread in bowl. Top with cherry pie filling.

Jackie Doud, Topeka:

CROCK-POT

CHICKEN & STUFFING
1 1/2 pounds chicken breasts
1 box Stove Top stuffing
1 can cream of chicken soup
8 ounces sour cream
1/2 cup chicken broth
1 can creamed corn
Place chicken in bottom of crock-pot. Combine stuffing, soup, sour cream and chicken broth. Spread over chicken breasts. Top with creamed corn. Cook on high for 4-5 hours.

Kimberly Edwards, Stillwater, Oklahoma:

TARTAR SAUCE

1 cup mayonnaise
2 tablespoons sweet pickle relish
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 teaspoon sugar
1 tablespoon chopped onion
Mix all together and refrigerate at least 30 minutes.

Stovetop Sausage And Rice Casserole From EatPork.org Sure To Be A Family Favorite

This easy Stovetop Sausage and Rice Casserole combines perfectly seasoned sausage with tender rice, creating a deliciously convenient meal that will become a family favorite in no time.

It's protein-packed and ready in about 30 minutes.

One dish meals can be the answer to the daily woes of making dinner.

This easy Italian sausage and rice casserole uses the speed of the air fryer to cook sausage and a saute pan to do the rest.

Together this team helps put a protein-packed and nutritious dinner on the table under an hour.

Not only does this recipe come together in under an hour, but it also includes a colorful variety of vegetables.

It feels slightly sneaky to put a nutritious meal together (including veggies) that the whole family will enjoy with so few steps.

We all know that for a family meal to receive two thumbs up, it has to be quick, created with ingredients on hand, and easy to clean up. This recipe checks all the boxes.

It should receive extra credit for how easy it is to customize the meal with adjusting the variety of sausage or color of peppers used to fit your family.



Give Italian Sausage and Rice Casserole a try tonight and take the stress out of making dinner!

Ingredients:

- 5 Italian sausage links or brats
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 medium yellow onion, diced
- 1 1/2 cups celery, finely diced
- 1 medium red bell pepper, cored & diced
- 1 medium yellow or orange bell pepper, cored & diced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes, optional
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 12-ounce can cream of celery soup
- 1 cup instant rice
- 1/4 cup almonds, sliced
- Fresh parsley as garnish

Preheat air fryer. Place the sausages in air fryer basket or tray. Lay the sausages in a single layer, leaving room on all sides.

Air fry the sausages at 370 degrees for 10-12 minutes, flip halfway through cooking process. Remove sausages from the air fryer and set them aside.



Heat the olive oil in a large soup pan. Add the peppers, celery, onion, and garlic. Cook until the vegetables are tender.

Stir in basil, red pepper flakes, salt, and pepper until blended.



Slice cooked Italian sausage into bite-sized pieces, then fold into the vegetable mix on low/medium heat.



In a separate medium sized bowl, whisk together the cream of celery soup and chicken broth until smooth. Pour soup mixture and rice into the vegetable/sausage mix and stir well.

Bring to a boil, stir, and cover. Simmer on low heat for 5 minutes or until rice is fully cooked.

Garnish with sliced almonds and fresh parsley.

SAUSAGE AND RICE RECIPE TIPS

* Don't have the cream of celery soup? Substitute with cream of chicken or mushroom.

* Regular or long-grain rice will need additional cooking time.

* Try a variety of flavored sausages to pep up the recipe.

Does rice need to be cooked before adding to casserole?

It depends on the recipe. This Italian sausage and rice casserole recipe cooks the rice in the pan as it goes. No need to cook beforehand.

NUTRITION Info:
Calories: 461kcal; Carbohydrates: 19g; Protein: 17g; Fat: 35g; Saturated Fat: 11g; Polyunsaturated Fat: 5g; Monounsaturated Fat: 17g; Trans Fat: 0.002g; Cholesterol: 73mg; Sodium: 1193mg; Potassium: 485mg; Fiber: 3g; Sugar: 3g; Vitamin A: 1384IU; Vitamin C: 55mg; Calcium: 63mg; Iron: 3mg

Recipe reprinted from EatPork.org.

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Kindness Counts: Valentine's Day Not Just About Romance

By Pat Melgares,
K-State Research and
Extension news service

MANHATTAN – It's February, and love is in the air, which means many have turned their thoughts to red roses, chocolate and dreamy greeting cards.

But Kansas State University child development specialist Bradford Wiles says it can also mean something more simple: Kindness.

"I always implore people to be kind to themselves (because) it's really easy to not be kind to ourselves," Wiles said.

"We make mistakes, but then we ruminate on them. We allow them to dominate thoughts about something that otherwise would be just fine. We need to learn to be kind to ourselves, as well."

Wiles said Valentine's Day celebrates love, "but a key component of that is kindness – kindness to our partners, kindness to our children, kindness from sibling to sibling. And then there is kindness to our classmates and peers."

"That's the kind of love that everyone can practice."

Children, he adds, learn love and kindness from the adults in their lives.

"The reality is that the earlier you learn about expressing feelings about empathy – especially understanding what other people are doing and feeling and thinking – and making a habit of being kind, then the easier it is for you to do that throughout your lifespan," Wiles said.

"And I can tell you that people who practice kindness, people who practice gratitude, are just healthier, happier and better adjusted people. The research bears that out unequivocally. And it's not that they're kind because they're healthy and happy. They're healthy and happy, because they're kind."

Wiles noted that children who have an orientation toward fear and suspicion often get that through early experiences.

"Now, I want to be really clear that you can overcome some of those things in your life," he said. "But the mountain that you'll have to climb becomes a mole hill if you're already practicing kindness."

Children and Valentine's Day

Children typically don't begin to view Valentine's Day in terms of romantic love until later in their school years.

Their first experiences take place within their family structure.

"At home, it's really a chance for parents and primary caregivers to express love, comfort and support for their child in ways that are very healthy, that clearly don't have the romantic component," Wiles said. "The home is a great place to leverage the chance to really talk about how much you love and support your child, while making them feel loved and included."

Wiles said parents should encourage children to actively engage in showing love toward family members, as well.

"As parents, we typically have this viewpoint (during the holidays) that we do things for our children and rarely do they do things for us," Wiles said. "Valentine's Day gives you a chance to provide gratitude for the love you feel toward them, but also the love you receive from your children."

"And so it's a really good opportunity to help your children understand that they're a partner in this relationship too. They bring you joy and that feeling of love and satisfaction, and they should know that it's not just a one direction type of dynamic. It's empowering for them. It helps them understand that they're not just being acted on by the world, but they can act on the world as well."

More information on child development is available online from K-State Research and Extension.

Links used in this story: Applied Research in Child Health and Enhancing Resilience, www.hhs.k-state.edu/ahs/extension/child-development

Prairie Gal Cookin'

Recipes and Ramblings from the Farm

Fishing With Grandma

By Ashleigh Krispense

"Hurry up, boys! We don't have all day." My Great-Grandma Millie hollered as she waited by the door of the car. Affectionately dubbed "The Airplane" for the symbol on the front hood, the two-tone, tan, '55 Chevy had long cane poles sticking out the rear window and a tin can of worms on the front floorboard. Only an hour ago, those worms had been mind-ing their own business beneath the chicken pen when, with a scoop of dirt and the grab-bing of little hands, they found themselves shoved inside Grandma's fish worm can.

In a flurry of movement, the back door slammed and three boys came running out to pile into Grandma's car. She handed one the can of worms and the others each grabbed a pole to keep them from ending up on a county road somewhere.

The hot summer wind breezed through the car and, in a matter of moments, they were headed down the gravel road towards her fishing hole of choice for the day.

Pulling into the narrow driveway that headed towards the Spring Branch, she began to turn around in the old pit silo. Mud grabbed at the tires and the boys grinned as Grandma began to work the car hard, trying to get through the slop. A three-speed on the column, she gave it fits as

she went between the clutch and the gas pedal. Breaking free of the mud, the car came to a halt in a nice patch of grass just as the doors flung open and boys spilled out.

Protectively covered from head to toe, Grandma had her hair wrapped up and wore long sleeves and a pair of old pants under her dress. She grabbed the worms and a pole and they headed down the path towards the creek.

Grasshoppers sang in the tall grass nearby and birds flitted around in the treetops above. The late afternoon sun broke through the branches and glinted off the lazily moving water.

Finding a solid piece of concrete to settle on, Grandma set down the worm can and proceeded to unwind the string from her long cane pole.

"Watch your fingers when you put the worms on the hook," she reminded them as she began to bait her own hook. A lifelong fisherman, Grandma had grown up fishing along Mud Creek with her brother near where they lived.

After baiting her hook, she cast the line and watched as her cork danced in the current, quickly finding its place. Pulling out the sunflower seeds that

had been stuffed into her pocket, Grandma began munching on a handful and settled in. This was one of her favorite places to be.

Nearby, the boys had found their own little spots of the stream to throw out a line. They could hear Grandma talking to the fish as she chewed on her sunflower seeds. Every once in awhile they would hear a commotion as she got one on the line. Just as they were beginning to wonder if they were ever going to catch anything, they heard Grandma calling.

"Boys! Can one of you come help me?" They handed over the poles and two of them took off across the sandbar. As they came closer, they could see Grandma standing beneath a tree limb with a smile on her face, pointing towards the sky. Shielding their eyes from the sun, they looked up only to find a perch dangling from the limb. Dad was right – when Grandma got a fish hooked on, it was in for the ride of its life!

She handed them the tangled fishing pole and picked up another one while they shim-mied up the tree and began unraveling the unlucky fish.

As the sun dipped lower into the sky, the five-gallon bucket filled up with fish of all sizes. From bullheads to two-inch long perch, if Grandma caught it, it ended up in her frying pan.

Eventually, the last perch dropped into the bucket and she'd had enough for the day. The boys had long since given up and gone ex-

ploring along the riverbank. They traipsed back towards her, covered in mosquito bites and splatters of mud. Gathering up their cane poles, they carefully wrapped the string back around them and poked the hooks into the cane. Picking up the worms and the bucket full of fish, they trudged back to "The Airplane" and headed for home.

Arriving home, Grandma quickly set to work cleaning, skinning, and then flouring the fish. She'd leave the tail on and it would turn crispy in the hot skillet. Once they came out of her frying pan, the meat would fall right off the bone.

As long as she lived, Grandma always loved to go fishing. At one point she was even given a more modern rod and reel that she took along a few times, but she always went back to her old cane poles. One thing is for sure, those afternoons spent fishing with Grandma will never be forgotten!

Fishing with Grandma is based on stories told to me by my Grandpa and Dad!

Ashleigh is a freelance writer and the gal behind the website, Prairie Gal Cookin' (www.prairiegalcookin.com), where she's shared step-by-step recipes and stories from around the farm in Kansas.

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Kansas Wheat talks policy at home and in the nation's capital

• **Cont. from page 1**
 chairman of the Kansas Wheat Commission from Goodland; and Marsha Boswell, Kansas Wheat vice president of communications.

The group met with all six of the U.S. Congressional offices representing the state of Kansas, including directly with U.S. Senator Jerry Moran. They reiterated the importance of maintaining crop insurance as the U.S. farm safety net, the need to double funding for export market programs (Market Access Program or MAP and the Foreign Market Development program or FMD) and increasing the reference price for wheat. More specifically, the team outlined the inequalities in the distribution of disaster payments under the

2022 Emergency Relief Program (ERP), which provided lower relief payments for higher levels of disaster.

Even more specifically, NAWG is advocating to officially classify intentionally seeded winter wheat as a cover crop for NRCS and other climate-smart programs, while not impacting its eligibility as a harvestable cash crop insurable through crop insurance and other safety net programs. According to NAWG, cover crops and other practices that have been termed "climate-smart" have been regarded as emerging tools to help farmers continue to be the best stewards of their lands, but winter wheat has been overlooked as a vital tool in both conservation and food security.

Off the Hill, the

USW Board of Directors elected Kansas wheat farmer Gary Millershaski of Lakin as Secretary-Treasurer for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. As a member of the USW officer team, Millershaski will provide a Kansas perspective and help guide the organization's work in more than 100 countries to develop, maintain and expand international markets — made possible by producer checkoff dollars managed by 17 state wheat commissions and cost-share funding provided by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service.

Meanwhile, back home in the Sunflower State, Kansas wheat farmers also had the opportunity to discuss policy, markets and weather during the 2024 Kansas Commodity Classic on Jan. 26, in Salina.

At the annual convention of the Kansas corn, wheat, soybean and grain sorghum associations, Ross Janssen, KWCH chief meteorologist, shared his positive outlook on the weather for the 2024 growing season while Jim Minert, agricultural economist and director of the Center for Commercial Agriculture at Purdue University, presented a tight outlook on the grain markets.

Representative Jake LaTurner (KS-02) answered a wide swath of questions from the audience regarding political discussions in Washington, D.C., followed by a panel of representatives from the national commodity organizations, including Chris Tanner, KAWG Vice President from Norton, who serves on the National Association of

Wheat Growers board of directors; Wayne Stoskopf with the National Corn Growers Association; Kyle Kunkler with the American Soybean Association; and Craig Meeker with the National Sorghum Producers.

"These events — fly-ins in Washington and meetings in Kansas — guide our actions to follow up on conversations, answer questions and make sure our legislators have the

information they need to put those priorities to work," DeGroot said. "That's our role with KAWG — continue the work to advocate on behalf of Kansas wheat farmers and plan and prioritize engagement on the policies and programs impacting their farming operations."

Learn more about opportunities to continue these policy discussions and the other benefits of joining KAWG at kswheat.com/policy.

Cattle stolen in Osborne County

A KLA member has had 15 head of Angus cattle stolen from a pasture located six miles south of Osborne on Highway 281. Those missing include one bull, four bred heifers and ten three-year-old cows. The cattle were found to be missing on December 13. All the cattle, except for two bred heifers, are branded with KR on the left hip. The bull also has an 881 freeze brand. The heifers should be calving now.

KLA is offering up to \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the thieves. The reward program only applies when the producer is a KLA member. Anyone with information on these cattle should contact Kansas brand investigators Jim Pinegar at (785) 207-8733 or Josh Winkler at (785) 338-0554.

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Main Stay Daughter
 CED 2 | BW 2.5 | WW 91 | YW 148 | MLK 26 | SW 81 | SB 179 | SC 298



Truck Bed Bandit

My neighbor friend was in Topeka with his elderly father when the (unnamed and not my) county sheriff's car pulled into his driveway. The subject was in the backseat, shackled, and told the two accompanying deputies he had delivered the stolen truck bed to this address, after selling it to my unsuspecting friend online. The flatbed was out behind the shop. It was all true.

For some reason both deputies left the subject unattended in their cruiser, and went to verify the stolen property was indeed on the property. My friend wasn't home, of course, but caught the whole scene on a video security camera mounted to his house.

As soon as the officers were out of sight the bandit was seen opening the back door of the sheriff's car, getting out, free of the handcuffs, and making a dash for a cedar windbreak at the edge of the yard. Clearing the chain-link fence, he vanished from camera view, but ran across the road into some of the densest brush and trees in our end of the county and disappeared.

As I cleared the hill I could see flashing lights everywhere and from past experience in our area, I could see there was an active manhunt in progress. Multiple law enforcement units

cruising side roads, a canine unit was called in, aerial surveillance equipment including drones and aircraft were all creating quite a spectacle.

I was heading over to mow a pasture that ran along the opposite side of the jungle the subject had run into, and as I drove my tractor and batwing mower up through the gate we had recently built, I saw a couple of sheriff's department vehicles in different locations monitoring the edge of the woods, then saw the third one farther north.

Pulling up beside the nearest unit, I stepped down from the tractor and leaned onto the driver's door to find the Lieutenant, whom I had known since he worked the local lumber yard as a high school kid. He was grinning at me and shook his head saying, "Not my guys, Kirk!" He told me what had led up to this manhunt, and I responded, "Well, you'll never find him in that mess."

We chatted for a bit, then the Lt. said, "The worst thing is I'm going to have to pull most of these people off of this search because the fair parade starts in an hour." US 24-40 and K-16 are two major highways that intersect at Tonganoxie, and since the fairgrounds are in our fair city, the traffic is monstrous and demands management.

After getting the description and asking if the guy was armed or not, I said, "Well, I'm going to be mowing in here for the next few hours. I'll keep an eye out for him and give you a call if I see him." I notified my assistant of the situation since he and his family lived just a half mile away. Lt. pulled out as I began my work, but the other two stayed for a while, leaving alternately one at a time. It seemed they had all gone, but I learned later that a couple of units were left at key locations, out of sight, but still posted.

I continued my pattern of mowing, back and forth starting next to the jungle and working my way out away

from the tree line while scouring the edge for any movement or sign of human activity. Consisting of well over a hundred acres of tick-infested jungle, "The Woods" run along our major county road for a half mile. I've been in that jungle hunting cows, and I can verify that there are places in there a man can't walk upright, let alone ride a horse through. I've actually had to cut my horse out of the bramble thickets in a couple different spots in there. I once came out of there so covered with ticks I had to scrape them off my jeans with my folding knife! One of my assistants told his visiting family that Sasquatch

lived back in there. I never met up with him, but if the Yeti wanted a place in Kansas to hide out, this would be the place!

I mowed till almost 8 p.m. then headed for the house. The truck bed bandit must've been watching me from Sasquatch's lair, because within an hour he had made it a mile east of there before being sighted by a couple of young ladies who reside next to our east line, who are very "situationally aware." A quick call to 911 with the responding nearby officer notified, and the subject was being 'cuffed and stuffed' into a back seat, shirtless, sweaty, scratched up and bloodied.

That deputy was probably picking ticks off himself for days afterward wondering where they came from!

Kirk Sours is a ranch manager and columnist in northeast Kansas. Email him at: sours.kirk@yahoo.com



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As I write, my driver is taking me to the Fort Wallace Museum where we are hosting 70 students from Weskan to celebrate Kansas Day (a couple of days after the fact, but that's okay). Larry Eberle is my neighbor and also

one of very active members of the Guardians of Fort Wallace. I didn't even ask him to drive - he just stopped by on his own. That is an example of the kind of people I work with.

I love Kansas Day. I know of no other

state that celebrates its birthday as widely and loudly as does Kansas. And if you know the history of Bleeding Kansas, you know why. Statehood was a hard-fought battle, and coming in as a free state - well, that was nigh-on miraculous.

Bleeding Kansas and the Kansas/Missouri border war is my favorite era, tragic as it was. It is fascinating - the characters, the issues, the circumstances - and it is unique. There is no other state with the same story of settlement and struggle. Once the federal government decided that popular sovereignty would determine the slavery issue in the Kansas Territory,

people poured in determined to vote their convictions and steer the state in the desired direction. Our election history is rich and ridiculous with twice as many votes cast as eligible voters in that first try. Voter fraud? Ha! We set the bar high for that one.

But the wonderful legacy of that time is involvement. Kansas loves government. We have a fine tradition of starting our own if we don't like the one we have. Don't like the way the legislature turned out? That's okay. Let's elect another one!

Kansas has had a profoundly disproportionate impact on national politics. With one

percent of the U. S. population, we have contributed a president, a vice president, various cabinet members, powerful senators and congressmen, and influential military officers.

Our origin story is messy, and not always pretty, but it is profound and nearly incredulous.

Okay, pulling into the Fort Wallace Museum now and have to get ready to turn these kids on to history!

Happy belated Kansas Day!

In today's Stupid Words from Andy Obermueller:

COMMENCE
In special legal or religious contexts, commence has a place. If you're just looking for

more syllables than start, quit while you're ahead. Start and begin are perfectly fine. Opt for the punchy Anglo-Saxon in lieu of the windy Latin.

Well, I'm commencing to give these kids a tour of the museum. Of course, where I grew up, it's "fixing to." I'll have to run that by Andy.

For more Stupid Words visit andyobermueller.substack.com.

Deb Goodrich is the host of *Around Kansas and the Garvey Texas Foundation Historian in Residence at the Fort Wallace Museum. She chairs the Santa Fe Trail 200, 2021-2025. Contact her at author.debgoodrich@gmail.com.*

LAND AUCTION-CHASE COUNTY, KANSAS
922+/- ACRES * 2 Tracts * Kansas Flint Hills Pasture

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2024 - 2:00 PM
AUCTION LOCATION: Cottonwood Falls Community Building, 1715 210th Rd., COTTONWOOD FALLS, KS 66845 (Swope Park)
TORADO VENTURES, INC., SELLER

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: EXCELLENT FLINT HILLS PASTURE IN CHASE COUNTY. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO INVEST IN THE FLINT HILLS OF KANSAS!

TRACT 1: 604 acres w/2 large ponds, live creek water, quality pasture, good fences, scenic location.

TRACT 2: 318 acres, 3 large ponds, good fence, quality pasture, scenic location, 2 old windmills.

Both Tracts Are Located Between Matfield Green & Burns



Visit www.sundgren.com for More Details, Pictures, Maps & Terms
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Frontier Extension District school to promote safe and effective prescribed grassland burns

By Carol Engle, Frontier Extension District Communications and Marketing Manager

The K-State Research and Extension Frontier District will host a school to teach attendees how to plan and conduct a safe and

effective prescribed burn of grasslands. Tools needed for burns will also be discussed. The school will be held 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 26 at the Neosho County Community College-Ottawa Campus, 900 E. Logan Street in Ottawa. A chili lunch will be available with a donation appreciated to cover costs. Registration is requested by Friday, Feb. 23 to Rod Schaub, agricultural agent specializing in livestock, at 785-828-4438 or rschaub@ksu.edu

Presenters for the school will include Ethan Walker, NRCS range specialist; David Kraft, Kansas Grazing Land Coalition; Justin Harbit, KDWP; and Nathan Griesemer, National Weather Service. Topics these presenters

will cover include reasons to burn, weather conditions for burning, equipment needed and planning for and conducting a burn, fire behavior, hazards and precautions, liability and CRP rules.

"Burning of native grasses in our area goes back hundreds of years and is responsible for the development of the grassy Great Plains," Schaub said. "That's why we need this type of meeting—we'll discuss the reasons to burn, how to plan and conduct a prescribed burn, and how to be safe while burning."

Schaub said that when he first became an Extension agent in Osage County about 30 years ago, a man came to his office and talked with him about a letter he had from the mid 1800s. The letter discussed a trip a relative had made from northwest Osage County to southeast Osage County. It talked about a vast sea of native grass with no trees in sight. The native grasses were so high that he had to kneel on his horse's saddle to see over the grass. The trip ended near Quenemo where they saw trees on the north bank of the Marais des Cygnes River,

the only trees they had seen.

This story was almost hard to believe, Schaub said, but fires, both natural and man-made, were responsible for the development of this huge area of grassland. Based on early records, these fires varied from only a few acres to thousands of acres and lasted weeks.

"Fire has always played a significant role in preventing woody plants from invading the prairie," Schaub said. "Many other benefits also occur when grasses are burned under favorable conditions and with proper timing. These benefits may include increased forage quality, improved grazing distribution, increased stocker cattle gains, improved wildlife habitat and survival of the young, faster development of newly seeded grasses and reduced wildfire hazards."

Fire was a feared enemy and a constant concern to the early settlers, Schaub said. The purpose of the school on Feb. 26 is help current landowners and producers safely use fire as a tool to manage and improve their grasslands.

REAL ESTATE AUCTION
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024 — 1:30 PM
Auction will be held in The Community Center on the South side of The Square in JEWELL, KS
S ½ NW ¼ 35-4-8 Jewell Co. Kansas
The farm is located from the South edge of Jewell go 2 miles West on H road to 170 Road then South ¼ mile on East side.
76.63 acres farm ground, 75.17 acres crop land, 1.46 acres waterway. The bases are wheat 58.80 acres with 36 bu yield, grain sorghum 16.00 acres with 70 bu yield for a total base acres of 74.80.
Taxes: 2023 taxes were \$1,683.74. Seller will pay 2023 and all prior years. Purchaser will pay all of 2024 taxes.
PEGGY BOHNERT
Auction Conducted By: THUMMEL REAL ESTATE & AUCTION LLC, 785-738-0067

Possession: Possession will be upon closing on or before March 31, 2024.
Terms: 10% of purchase price as down payment day of auction, the balance will be paid upon closing on or before March 31, 2024.
Down payment will be escrowed with NCK Title. Title insurance will be used, the cost will be split 50/50 between seller & purchaser. Escrow fees will be split 50/50 between seller & purchaser.
Thummel Real Estate & Auction LLC is acting as seller agent. All statements made day of auction take precedence over printed material.

WEBER HALL ARENA
THURSDAY, FEB. 15 7:30 PM
FRIDAY, FEB. 16 7:30 PM
SATURDAY, FEB. 17 1:00 PM & 7:30 PM
SUNDAY, FEB. 18 1:00 PM

PURCHASE TICKETS:
YEEHAW OUTFITTERS, OUTPOST WESTERN STORE, TRACTOR SUPPLY, BOMGAARS, CALL HALL DAIRY BAR, R BAR B (TOPEKA), TRACTOR SUPPLY COMPANY (JUNCTION CITY)

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is on **facebook**

POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY LAND AUCTION
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024 * 6:00 PM
AUCTION LOCATION: Westmoreland Community Center, 201 Main Street, WESTMORELAND, KANSAS

DESCRIPTION
Here is a unique opportunity to purchase 80 acres right off of Hartwich Road outside of Westmoreland. The property will be offered in two 40-acre parcels and then in its entirety. Previously it was broke ground but currently is a hay meadow.
Tracts like this in this location do not come up for sale very often so make sure to join us for this great auction!

Tract 1: 40+/- acres
Tract 2: 40+/- acres
Tract 3: Tract 1 & 2 Combined
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: S11-T08-R09 E2 NW4

SELLER: MARY BAIROW

REAL ESTATE TERMS: Property sells AS-IS, WHERE IS. 10% non-refundable down payment is required on the day of sale by check. Buyer must be able to close on or before March 18, 2024. Buyer needs a bank letter of loan approval or funds verification. Cost of Owner's Title Policy to be split equally between Buyer and Seller. Buyers are responsible for understanding all zoning, building & other regulations associated with the property prior to the day of auction. All announcements day of sale take precedence over written materials. Crossroads Real Estate & Auction LLC is representing the Seller.

Check us out on Facebook & Online for more info www.kscrossroads.com
www.facebook.com/KScrossroadsauctions

Andrew Sylvester, Co-Listing Agent & Auctioneer, 785-456-4352
Bill Disberger, Co-Listing Agent/ Associate Broker, 620-921-5642
TERRI HOLLENBECK, Broker/Owner, 785-223-2947

Mark your calendar for the 2024 Statewide Women in Ag event in Corning

Join fellow producers on March 2, 2024, at the Statewide Women in Ag event in Corning to meet with like-minded individuals, gain knowledge, and have some fun! The doors will open at 8 a.m. with a light breakfast, and the day will kick off at 8:30 a.m.

Highlights of the event include:

- Jolene Brown, a

returning favorite, will deliver the opening keynote, "Harvest the Humor, A Celebration of Life on the Farm" with completely new content. Her relatable stories are sure to make you laugh and possibly shed a tear or two.

• Keith Koch from ADM will discuss "Climate Smart" and how it can benefit your operations.

• Lucinda Stuenkel will share her knowledge about soil health, grazing practices, and farming with less muscle in her operation. She spoke at the very first Statewide Women in Ag event in 2018.

• Ashley Svaty will provide tips on Simple & Safe Harvest Meals

• A hearty pork

chop dinner will be prepared by Home Cookin', and door prizes, shirt sales, seat cushion sales, and a quilt raffle will be available for attendees.

• Sarah Gideon will discuss the Health Innovations Network Of Kansas' mission and goals, which are the main sponsor for speaker Karen Eddington's workshop. She will pro-

vide insights on "Stress Surfing" and how to manage stress in our lives.

• Jolene Brown will wrap up the day with her afternoon session on the "The Positives of Passing It On."

Don't miss out on this exciting event! Register now at www.kswomeninag.com to secure your spot. It's an event that fills up quickly, so

make sure to register early. Both women and men are encouraged to attend!

The Statewide Women in Ag Committee, consisting of Nemaha, Jackson, Pottawatomie, and Shawnee County Conservation Districts, is organizing the event. Call 785-336-2186 x110 to inquire about sponsorships.

Time to make ARC/PLC decisions for 2024/2025 marketing year

By David Hallauer, Meadowlark District Extension agent, crops and soils

Without completion of a new Farm Bill, extension of the 2018 Bill means evaluation of the Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs at least one more time. March 15th is the election deadline for 2024 harvested crops (payments would be made in late 2025).

The basic program concepts haven't changed. ARC is a revenue-based program, combining five years of both marketing year average prices and county level yields multiplied by a factor to determine a revenue guarantee. Payments are made if the revenue guarantee isn't achieved and capped at 10 percent of the benchmark revenue.

The PLC program is more price-based. When marketing year average prices fall below a reference price, payments are triggered. New for this next year is an increase

in selected effective reference prices based on marketing year average price triggers set forth in the original bill.

When evaluating your decision, check out some of the resources available through the KSU Department of Agricultural Economics. The first is a general program overview sharing reference price changes and statewide program election numbers since the inception of the Farm Bill. It's a great read to get the evaluation process started and includes links to additional resources as well. Check it out at <https://www.agmanager.info/arc-and-plc-selections-2024>.

Two of those links will help you take a deeper dive into program options. One is the tradeoff spreadsheet. This Excel based program graphically illustrates where ARC and PLC will tend to pay and when they won't so you can see differences in each commodity at a county level.

The second is a series of two papers providing marketing year average price outlooks. One provides predictions from KSU economists and explains in greater detail the background on the predictions. The other has predictions from multiple other sources for

comparison purposes.

All of the above can be found on the KSU Ag Economics Farm Bill webpage at: <https://www.agmanager.info/ag-policy/2018-farm-bill>. Want to hear from KSU Economists about some of what to consider?

Check out the Managing Risk with ARC, PLC and SCO: 2024 Tradeoffs and Tools webinar Friday, February 2nd with economists Jenny Ifft and Robin Reid. The 12:00-1:00 p.m. Zoom will cover how current market conditions af-

fect these choices plus tools available to help with your decision. Recordings will be available. Register to participate at: <https://www.agmanager.info/events/managing-risk-arc-plc-and-sco-2024-tradeoffs-and-tools>

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LHT Mr Chief 435K ^{3/4 SM}

TJ Chief 460G x LHT Ms Cowboy Cut 19G
BW 0.9 WW 84 YW 123 API 127 TI 80

LHT Mr American Red 51L ^{PB SM}

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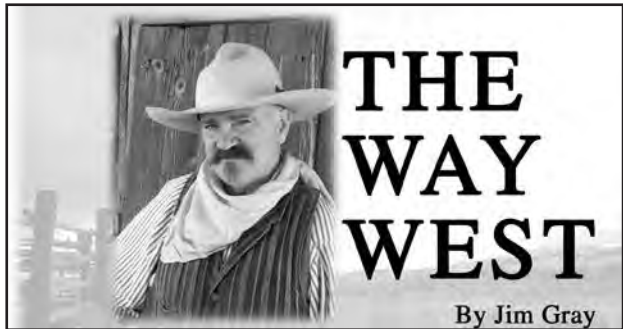
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THE WAY WEST

By Jim Gray

In the Dead of Winter

William Sublette answered an advertisement in early 1823 for "Enterprising Young Men," to ascend the Missouri River in a company of fur trappers. William Ashley, Missouri's first lieutenant governor, and famed mountain man Andrew Henry organized the company. Henry had been trapping beaver in the mountains since 1807.

Twenty-three-year-old William Sublette was born September 21, 1799, at Stanford, Kentucky. In 1817 he moved to Missouri Territory. His father opened a tavern, speculated in land, and engaged in farming along with town politics in St. Charles. William served as the St. Charles town constable from 1820 to 1823 when, on March 10th, he left St. Louis with

more than seventy men to trap beaver in the mountains. Each trapper was to be paid two hundred dollars a year and allowed to keep half of his catch. Among Sublette's companions were forty-year-old Hugh Glass, thirty-one-year-old James Clyman, and Thomas Fitzpatrick, twenty-three.

Henry and Ashley had previously sent a company of men to the mouth of the Yellowstone in 1822. That year, twenty-two-year-old Jedediah Smith and nineteen-year-old Jim Bridger were among the young men seeking adventure in the wilds of the Rocky Mountains. Moses "Black" Harris was with them but was already known as an old and experienced mountaineer. The company was known as "Ashley's Hundred."

Henry left the company in 1824 and by the fall of 1826 Ashley was ready to retire from mountaineering. The company was sold to William Sublette, Jedediah Smith, and David "Davey" Jackson. Ashley's contract offered attractive prices for supplies and goods if the company of Smith, Jackson, and Sublett delivered their order in St. Louis by March 1, 1827.

In late December, 1826, Jedediah Smith was in California and Davey Jackson was supposedly in the Snake River country. From the Cache Valley rendezvous site in present-day northern Utah Sublette put his order together. In the absence of his partners Sublette prepared to complete the all-important contract with William Ashley. The task would require a trek of fourteen hundred miles to reach St. Louis in a span of two months.

The snow was too deep to travel by horse, so he and Moses "Black" Harris set out on January 1, 1827, wearing snowshoes for a very long winter walk. Harris was famous as a man of "great leg," able to walk great distances

alone and for extended periods. Alfred Jacob Miller, foremost artist of the Far West, described Harris as, "wiry of frame, made up of bone and muscle with a face composed of tan leather and whipcord finished up with a peculiar blue black tint, as if gun powder had been burnt into his face." An Indian-trained pack dog carried a pack of sugar, coffee, and other supplies. Each man strapped on a backpack filled with dried buffalo meat, but they carried only a subsistence amount, expecting to kill wild game along the way.

After a ninety-mile trek their stock of dried meat was running low. The buffalo that they expected to find on Ham's Fork were nowhere to be found. Ham's Fork, a tributary of the Green River, was frozen over, only yielding drinking water that came from the ice and snow melted in the flame of kindled campfires.

Another one hundred miles brought them to the Sweetwater River at the South Pass and fresh buffalo meat. Reaching the North Platte River, the diminishing meat supply again threat-

ened starvation. Three or four days without food brought them to a friendly Indian camp where they were able to resupply and continue on. Along the Platte they luckily encountered intermittent small Indian camps. However, as they reached the Platte River's Grand Island their supplies were depleted.

The normal route followed the Platte to its confluence with the Missouri River. That well-known route coursed far to the northeast before returning southeast to meet the Missouri. Instead, near present-day Grand Island, Nebraska, Sublette and Harris turned away from the river knowing that the Kansas River was below them... somewhere.

By the first week of February, forty to fifty miles southeast of the Platte, the men were again starving. Sublette had barely enough strength to scrape the snow from a spot, gather his blanket around him and fall exhausted. Harris kindled a fire and as he bent over it for warmth his eye turned toward the dog that had faithfully carried the little supply that had brought them

so far. The next few minutes were just too gruesome to express. "They both ate heartily in the morning." The meat lasted a couple of days, just enough to get them to an old Indian trail that led to main Kansa village at the mouth of the Big Blue River, near present-day Manhattan, Kansas. From there they followed the Kansas River to its confluence with the Missouri River and on to St. Louis.

Despite their travels Sublette and Harris arrived March 4, 1827, three days too late to satisfy the contract. Even so, William Ashley honored the agreement. The supplies were put in order in time for a west-bound party of sixty men to leave St. Louis on March 15th, with Sublette's order. The company of mountain men guided by William Sublette assumed a line of march along the new "Sublette's Trace," forerunner of the California-Oregon Trail, forged in the dead of winter on The Way West.

"The Cowboy," Jim Gray can be reached at 220 21st RD Geneseo, KS. Phone 785-531-2058 or kansascowboy@kans.com.

Farmers & Ranchers AUCTIONS EVERY MONDAY & THURSDAY

Selling Cattle every Monday Hog Sales on 2nd & 4th Monday of the month only!

TOTAL FOR THE WEEK: CATTLE - 6,355.

Table of livestock auction listings including categories for STEERS, HEIFERS, and CALVES, with columns for lot number, sex/color, breed, weight, and price.

Livestock Commission Co., Inc. Salina, KANSAS

SALE BARN PHONE: 785-825-0211 MONDAY - CATTLE • HOG SALE 2nd & 4th MONDAY Hogs sell at 11:00 a.m. on the 2nd & 4th Monday of the month. Cattle at 12:00 Noon. Selling calves and yearlings first, followed by Packer cows and bulls.

THURSDAY - CATTLE ONLY Selling starts at 10:00 a.m. Consign your cattle as early as possible so we can get them highly advertised.

AUCTIONEERS: KYLE ELWOOD, BRANDON HAMEL & GARREN WALROD For a complete list of cattle for all sales check out our website www.fandrllive.com

CATTLE USA.com LIVE CATTLE AUCTIONS FARMERS & RANCHERS HAS SWITCHED BACK to Cattle USA.com for our online auctions.

SPRING SPECTACULAR HORSE SALE, MAY 18, 2024 Get your Horses CONSIGNED TODAY! Deadline is March 1st!

Table of horse auction listings with columns for lot number, sex/color, breed, weight, and price.

Early Consignments: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024 62 steers & heifers, 600-750, weaned Dec. 1; 40 steers & heifers, 550-650, longtime weaned; 50 blk strs, 800-850, Gardiner genetics, homeraised; 33 hrs, 650-700, 2 rnd vacc; 100 mostly blk steers & heifers, 600-700, long weaned, vacc, green; 32 blk/red strs, 925, long weaned, vacc; 63 hrs, 700, long weaned, 2 rnd vacc, open; 15 char strs, 700 homeraised, long weaned, no implants; 100 red/charX strs, 800-900; 40 hrs, 900; 250 blk/charX hrs, 700-800, long weaned, vacc; PLUS MORE BY SALE TIME.

EARLY CONSIGNMENTS FOR SPECIAL COW SALE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024 * 11:00 AM REPLACEMENT HEIFERS: 20 black/bwf heifers, homeraised, OCHV'd, pelvic exam, all vaccs, Stucky Angus or Schrieber Angus sired; plus more by sale time. BRED HEIFERS: 45 black heifers, bred Angus, calving March/April; 14 black heifers, bred Harms low birth weight black bulls, bulls in Sept 25 for 45 days, will need Scourguard; 21 black/bwf heifers; plus more by sale time. BRED COWS/COW PAIRS: (Dispersion) 420 black/bwf cows, 4-8 years, bred to Hi Dollar Connealy Angus bulls, steer calves last year weighed 919#s at 10 months, cows had all vaccs, cows are Schlessiger or SD John Miller cows; 70 red/rwf cows, 3-5 years, spring calvers; 25 young black spring bred cows, bred black or char; 140 mostly black fall bred cows; 40 black running age cows, bred Angus; 20+20, black/red cows, 3-5 years, black/red calves, December/January calves; 35+35 mostly black pairs, 7-older; 64 black/bwf cows, 3-8 years, bred Don Johnson Angus; 45 black 4 years old, bred Gray Ranch Angus bulls; 5 solid mouth fall pairs; plus more by sale time.

UPCOMING SPECIAL SALES COW SALES: Tues., February 20 * Tues., March 19 * Tues., April 16 * Tues., May 7 WEANED/VACC SALES: Tuesday, February 6 IN STOCK TODAY: Heavy Duty Round Bale Feeders • Heavy Duty Feed Bunks

For Information or estimates, contact: Mike Samples, Sale Mgr., Cell Phone 785-826-7884 Kyle Elwood, Asst. Sale Mgr., Cell Phone 785-493-2901. Check our listings each week on our website at www.fandrllive.com. Cattle Sale Broadcast Live on www.cattleusa.com 1150 KSAL, Salina 6:45 AM - MON-FRI * 880 KRNV 8:40 AM - WED-THURS. *550AM KFMR - 8:00 am, Wed.-Thurs.

