

# GRASS & GRAIN

Published by AG PRESS

54th Year

No. 15

June 10, 2008

\$1.00



## Farms take advantage of renewable resources

By Beth Gaines-Riffel, editor

The decision to go “green” isn’t one that is lightly made — because often it means taking advantage of technology that is fairly expensive, maybe not widely available or just simply considered ‘weird.’

But progressive farmers and ranchers are finding for a variety of reasons, taking advantage of alternative source of energy means a boost to their bottom line or being a better steward of natural resources.

Being “green” is becoming more popular with the general public as people look for ways to conserve fossil fuels including car-pooling, reduce solid waste by taking reusable bags to the grocery store and curb costs associated with everyday living by using the energy-saving fluorescent light bulbs. But while those items might be practical for the average homeowner, it is a little more difficult to apply on a larger scale when it comes to our agricultural businesses. But there are ways to do so and farmers in the area are taking advantage of some of the new technology to help improve the overall profitability of their business by using a free resource we have an abundance of in Kansas — the sun.

Lane Deters and his wife Carol attended the Manhattan home show earlier this spring looking for ways to incorporate energy savings into their new home. After visiting with Tom Parrish of Mid-American Solar, they realized that he might not be able to help them heat their home, but a system could be a real benefit to the dairy

that he operated with his brother Dale.

The pair, who are third-generation dairymen who milk nearly 130 head of cows, found that the prospect of cutting their annual use of propane to heat the water to wash out their milking parlor daily, had real appeal.

“It just made sense,” Lane said, explaining that there are currently some tax credits available for those businesses and residents that have solar water heating systems installed.

“The fast-track depreciation on the system was also a bonus,” Dale said, noting that in addition to the system in the dairy parlor, he also put a solar water-heating system in his personal home.



Dave Sampson explains that the solar power backup unit could be a real benefit in areas hit with natural disasters.

Parrish noted that the tax credits being offered were associated with the recently-passed economic stimulus package and would expire at the end of 2008.

The system the Deters installed included a 120-gallon hot water tank and a heat exchanger.

The system is designed to heat to 180 degrees.

On the afternoon the interview was completed the day was partly cloudy and by 1 p.m. in the afternoon, the temperature was already registering 164 degrees.

“On days that are cloudy or overcast, we do have a backup propane system that can bring it on up to temperature if we need to — but so far we haven’t had to,” Dale said.

The five collector panels on the roof are four feet wide by eight feet in length.

“We wash at night so it has all day to warm up and so far it has worked really well.”



Centralia dairy farmers Dale Deters and Lane and Carol Deters installed solar panels earlier this spring to heat the water for their milking parlor. They expect to reduce their propane usage by half with the installation of the system. The five panels can be seen atop their barn.

to make money. If it does, we might be.”

For David Sampson, with Oakgrove Fabrication, his interest in harnessing the power of the sun goes back to his childhood in Utah and a fascination how things work. Fast forward to the late '90s and the rancher who holds a range science degree decided that he wanted more of a challenge than working on the Konza prairie and launch a business of his own specializing in solar power.

Sampson believes that Kansans have too much of a herd mentality and find it difficult to be innovative — of which harness the power of the sun certainly is. That being said, he is slowly gaining converts — not

necessarily where you think though.

Sampson has found that ranchers who want to make use of their water resources in remote locations find that the notion of running traditional electric lines to power a traditional water pump is unrealistic. But by installing a solar-powered unit, they can provide a good, clean water source for a herd nearly anywhere.

“These are being used by some progressive operators,” Sampson explained.

The solar unit, with a battery backup and sometimes a wind turbine, provides a nearly uninterrupted power source so that herds can be watered year round, he said.

“Solar is an expensive source of power,” Sampson conceded, but added that it has some real benefits, espe-

cially when the traditional electricity is interrupted in times of natural disaster — such as this past winter.

Sampson said that he also is getting more inquiries from people who want to have a backup power system available.

He noted that due to the storms last winter, there was real concern that the current system was simply “patched” together and another wide-spread natural disaster could take longer to bounce back from as the repair crews are brought in from farther away.

He also pointed out that small, portable power generators are a great asset when working in remote areas where traditional electricity isn’t available, but the use of power tools, such as drills and grinders makes it possible to get the job done faster and easier than by the use of hand tools.

## K-State crop specialist gives tips on assessing early-season hail damage

Hail damage always makes corn look bad, and can make for some sleepless nights. But while the physical damage is apparent, the actual effect on yield is not as obvious, said Kansas State University agronomist Kraig Roozeboom.

The effect of hail damage on corn yields depends on the stage of growth, said Roozeboom, who is a crop production specialist with K-State Research and Extension.

“Potential corn yield losses from hail gradually increase as the crop gets more mature, up to the silk stage, when peak yield loss occurs,” he said. “After silking,

yield losses from hail damage normally decline again.”

There are several reasons for that, and all are based on the growth and development of the corn plant, Roozeboom said.

Emergence until stem elongation (VE to V5 development stages). Up through the 5-leaf stage of growth, the growing point of corn is below the soil surface. At the worst, hail damage would remove all five leaves, but typically not damage the growing point. A corn plant has 24 to 26 leaves at tasseling. If the plant loses five of those leaves early on, it will still have the potential to have 19 to 21 leaves at tas-

seling. Yield will be reduced, but by much less than one might expect from the appearance of the plant.

Stem elongation to tassel (V6 to VT development stages). In this stage, the growing point begins extending above ground by the 6-leaf stage, although it is still protected by several layers of leaves and sheaths. The number of rows that will be in the ear is established by the 12-leaf stage. Stress during V8 to V11 can reduce row number. The number of kernels per row is not determined until about V17, just before tasseling. Hail damage and loss of leaf area during these stages of growth

can cause increasing potential for yield loss. Hail can also cause stalk bruising during these stages of growth, but it is hard to determine the amount of damage from stalk bruising until later in the season.

Tassel to maturity (VT to R6 or tassel to silk development stages). At VT to R1, the corn plant is more vulnerable to hail damage than at any other stage. The tassel and all leaves are exposed at that time. No more leaves will be developed, and the corn cannot replace a damaged tassel. Furthermore, the stalk is exposed, with only one layer of leaf sheath protecting it. Unlike wheat, corn

cannot fill extensively from the stem if leaves are lost at this stage of growth. The six to eight leaves above the ear are the most important, and provide most of the grain fill. If damage occurs later in grain fill, much of the yield is already in the grain. Shredded leaves may prevent or reduce the last few increments of dry matter accumulation, but what has been deposited in the grain already is typically not lost. Losses at this stage occur when large hail stones puncture the husks and allow insects and diseases to access the immature grain.

Continued on page 14



## Over the Barn Gate

By Beth Gaines-Riffel

It would seem of late you need a scorecard to keep track of the nastiness that Mother Nature has been sending out. I've heard from any number of folks that have been impacted by the storms have ripped through our fair state in the last 30 days.

I'm relieved that we didn't have any communities sustain the type of damage that hit Greensburg, although what happened to the small community of Jewell is significant in its own right. But my heart certainly goes out to the farm families that took direct hits, with the loss of their homes,

buildings and equipment. Sadly, this type of damage seldom makes the news or gets the coverage it deserves.

I'm not downplaying the horrific hailstorm that hit Manhattan, because it was certainly devastating and caused millions of dollars of damage, but it got much more publicity over a wider area. Yet, one has to wonder if it any more destructive than the storms that ripped through the countryside?

I can only hope that the spirit of rural community is alive and well and that friends, neighbors and others come to the aid of those afflicted by

the storm with offers of assistance to clean up after the fact.

Nick Levendofsky of Republic shared these photos with me of the tornadoes that ripped through the mostly rural Republic County area on May 29 and took the farm of his cousin James and Carol Levendofsky.

If you look at what the tornado left in its wake — or maybe more aptly how the tornado left things — it reminded me of what I would find in the front room when the boys played "farm" as toddlers. It was not unusual to find combines flipped over or grain trucks and tractors topsy-turvy.

The sad thing is that millions of dollars of equipment that is desperately needed in the heart of planting and harvesting



What's left of the farmstead of James and Carol Levendofsky in Republic County. (Photos courtesy of Nick Levendofsky)

season may be difficult to replace quickly and at a reasonable cost with the current demand for farm machinery.

Something that I can't say I had ever contemplated until I saw Nick's photos was the damage done to the cemetery. I have a real soft spot for the elegant, old-fashioned country places — complete with their decorative wire fences and ornate and sometimes painfully simple grave markers that commemorate the lives of early pioneers and farm families that settled the region.

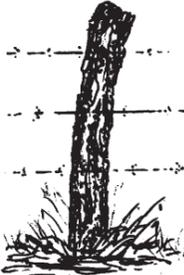
After the tornado passed over, those stately markers looked more like Legos tossed about. It will take a serious community effort to restore and right those tributes to the dead, and sadly some may never be fixed.

Maybe that, in its own way, is a reminder to each of us that we should respect the power of our prairie storms — and to make sure that we are as prepared as possible for whatever Mother Nature may throw our way.

That's all for now. Be safe this week and I'll chat with you next week, "Over the Barn Gate!"



A toppled grave marker in Union Valley Cemetery.



## The Learning Post

By Gordon Morrison  
Concordia Rancher and  
Former Agriculture Educator

### We Are Not Quitters

Seldom have I seen the pastures more beautiful. The 700 acres we burned this spring already have new warm season grasses that are above ankle high. We are slightly over the average in rainfall, which has not been the case in years.

For some, however, the weather has been devastating. Last evening, I was on the four-wheeler spraying thistles when my friend rode up on his four-wheeler to salt his cattle. We shut off the engines and visited. He told me of the terrible hailstorm that hit his farmstead, about 20 miles east of our ranch. Hailstones as big as a softball went through new steel roofing. Also the roof of his house was badly damaged and now leaks like a sieve, allowing rain to pour in. His wheat is gone, and a hundred acres of excellent alfalfa, worth up to \$200 a ton delivered, was beaten into the ground. I watched his countenance as he told me of the great loss. I detected no signs of self-pity, anger, or the feeling of giving up. They will pick up the broken pieces and continue on. They are not quitters.

The tornado that passed through north central Kansas last week created havoc in the town of Jewell and on many rural farmsteads, starting at Tipton, and moving northeast through Jewell and Republic counties and beyond to Nebraska, where it pulled up. That would be over a hundred miles on and off the ground.

Then consider the town of Greensburg, completely blown away over a year ago. Are they quitters? No. The town is being rebuilt — all new with ultramodern designs and concepts. It is soon to become a model town.

When we fired up our four-wheelers to continue our jobs, mine of spraying thistles and his to salt the cattle, I suddenly felt a rush of enthusiasm to continue to eliminate the thistles. After 18 years of fighting them, I will not quit but will overcome them. I can see progress quite clearly when I consider that during the first few years of combating them I spent thousands of dollars for

chemicals whereas this year, I believe I may get by with about \$50 per acre of weed spray. I used to use a mist blower for spraying. Now I use a 25-gallon tank on the four-wheeler and do spot spraying. Eighteen years ago, I would spend two or three days on the side of a hill. Now, I may find only 15 or 20 thistles that will require only a few minutes to kill. At one time the pond dams were covered with thistles, but now with two quick passes I have them sprayed. I am making progress, but I must not quit. They can come back fast. They seem to do best during drought years, so maybe next year there will be even fewer.

There is no doubt that the farms in the United States are becoming bigger in scope, thus fewer in number; and the average age of active farmers is going up. Farms, like big businesses, are merging, consolidating and moving toward corporations. Many feel this movement toward corporate farming is encouraged by our government through the farm programs. Big farmers can cash their big government checks, go buy a bigger tractor and then be able to farm their neighbor's ground as well as their own. Farms are becoming huge and the family farms are fast becoming rare. With fewer people living in the country, small towns without schools can fast become ghost towns with only a stone monument, showing where the school once was.

Family farmers, don't give up, don't quit. Become more efficient, smarter, and persistent; buy, trade, and barter with your neighbor — be his friend. Let's help the younger folk to have a chance at our way of life — farming and ranching. When we do have to quit, let's be careful who we pass the baton on to. Corporate farming is not the kind of farming I grew up with and know. It was neighbor helping neighbor to get through the storm.

The book *Views from the Learning Post* can be ordered from Gordon Morrison, 1268 Key Road, Concordia, KS 66901 or may be available in a store near you. For information, call 785-243-3833.



**GRASS & GRAIN**

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**GRASS & GRAIN**  
(USPS 937-880)

The newsweekly for Kansas and southern Nebraska, published each Tuesday at 1531 Yuma (Box 1009), Manhattan, KS by Ag Press, Inc. Periodicals postage paid at Manhattan, Kansas. Postmaster send address changes to: Ag Press, Box 1009, Manhattan, KS 66505.

**Subscription** — \$75 for 2 years. \$41 for 1 year, includes sales tax. Outside Kansas, \$48 for 1 year, \$89 for 2 years.

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9/23/07

**"Paw, I don't think I'll ever finish this novel about my life as ranch wife. My tears keep rustin' up the typewriter!"**

# Amid strong farm economy, some worry about increased debt

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — At a time of record agricultural profits, concerns are mounting that American farmers could be edging toward a financial crisis not seen since the 1980s farm-economy collapse.

Soaring land values, increasing debt and a reliance on government subsidies for ethanol production have prompted economists to warn that what some describe as a golden age of agriculture could come to a sudden end. At risk are the livelihoods of thousands of farmers, the health of hundreds of banks and the vitality of an agricultural industry that has been one of the nation's few economic bright spots in recent months.

"We're in a very risky time, and yet we don't seem concerned about that risk nearly as much as we should be," said Barry L. Flinchbaugh, an agricultural economist at Kansas State University. The potential problem, economists said, is that strong demand for corn and other grains has caused prices to reach historic highs. That has led to record farmland values and steadily increasing debt as farmers borrow money to buy more land, finance the higher costs of fertilizer and seed and upgrade their equipment.

As long as the demand remains, good times for farmers should continue. But if demand falls, they could find themselves in a situation reminiscent of the early 1980s when the farm economy largely crumbled.

Among factors that could affect demand would be a change in the federal government's policy on ethanol subsidies, now estimated at about \$6 billion a year, revisions in the farm bill that would lower support pay-

ments or an increase in the dollar's value, which would hurt exports.

Farm economists question whether the federal backing for ethanol will continue in the face of complaints that soaring corn prices are increasing food costs. Corn is used in most animal feed and is a key ingredient in myriad other products.

"U.S. energy policy has been friendly to ethanol in the last couple of decades. The question is, will it continue to be. It's running up food prices and that's causing pressure on Congress to limit mandates for ethanol usage," said Neil Harl, an emeritus professor of economics at Iowa State University.

Flinchbaugh and others said the agricultural economy bears a striking resemblance to that seen in the mid-1970s, when a seemingly insatiable demand for U.S. crops drove up land values and farmers took advantage of their soaring equity to increase debt. When federal policy changed and demand suddenly dropped, land values and farm income plunged, forcing thousands of farmers to sell out and leading to the failure of nearly 300 agricultural banks.

Grain farmer Harlan Meier, 76, of Davenport lived through the last two major farm economy downturns — the Depression in the 1930s and the 1980s farm crisis.

Even at a time of such strong prices, Meier noted that farmers are paying much higher prices for seed and nitrogen fertilizer, a product needed in abundance for fields repeatedly planted in corn. The increased costs and memories of the 1980s have made him hesitant to take on debt.

"I guess you could say

there's an awful lot of concern in the rural communities and with some of the city people," Meier said. "I would think there would be a lot of cautiousness among farmers because most of the people can remember the '80s and I would think there's probably a lot of cautious people now on spending a lot of money."

Economists worry that farmers could be tempted to add debt due to the belief that high commodity prices would continue.

Those prices have been driven up by a strong demand for corn and soybeans from countries such as China and India, coupled with the needs of more than 50 corn-reliant ethanol plants built in the last few years.

The cash price for corn on the Chicago Board of Trade has soared from \$1.86 a bushel in the 2004-2005 marketing year to the current price of about \$6 per bushel. Soybeans were at \$5.88 a bushel in 2004-2005 and now are at around \$13.50.

As prices have climbed, so have farmland values. In Iowa, the nation's biggest corn producer, the average price per acre of farmland has increased 67 percent in the past five years.

"Land prices are increasing dramatically, and prices of grains are high just like the '70s," said Danny Klinefelter, an extension economist at Texas A&M. "It concerns me. It concerns me a lot."

Harl, who has written extensively on the 1980s farm crisis, said the key is how much debt farmers take on, and it appears that amount is increasing significantly.

"The longer these higher commodity prices go, the more it will draw people in to borrow heavily to buy the land and that's when things get dicey," Harl said.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, farm business debt is expected to reach \$228 billion by the end of this year, an \$8 billion increase from last year and a new record for the fourth consecutive year.

The government said much of the debt is driven by the need for new machinery, equipment and grain storage, as farmers strive to keep up with the increasing demand for grain.

Debt for land is expected to rise to nearly \$121 billion this year, a 2.8 percent increase.

And the USDA said from the beginning of 2003 to the end of 2008, total farm debt will have increased by about \$52.8 billion, or more than 30 percent.

Recent reports filed by agricultural lenders shows the government's expectations are playing out in reality.

Farm Credit Services of Mid-America, which provided \$12 billion in agricultural loans for farmers in Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee, and Kentucky last year, noted in its annual report for 2007 that high crop prices "have created a much more risky and volatile agriculture economy."

The group's lending was up 15.2 percent over the loan volume of the year before.

Omaha-based Farm Credit Services of America, which served 70,000 farmers in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming last year, reflected similar increases in farm lending.

Harl said the current farm economy reminds him of about 1974 or 1975 — several years before the boom went bust.

In the 1980s, changing government policies, including a grain embargo against the Soviet Union after the invasion of Afghanistan, drastically cut farm exports. Farm productivity remained high, government surpluses soared and the resulting oversupply drove commodity prices and land values down dramatically.

In addition, efforts to control inflation drove interest rates higher and caused land values to plummet. Farmers, who had bought land in hopes of benefiting from the strong commodity prices, were left holding debt on property that was worth less than they owed.

Farm foreclosures exploded across the countryside, hurting not only farmers but the companies that supplied them, such as farm implement manufacturers and seed distributors.

It all seems familiar to the Rev. David Ostendorf of Chicago, a United Church of Christ minister who once led PrairieFire Rural Action, a group that tried to save family farms.

"With the price of land going as it is through the ceiling once again, the debt load's going up. I think all the signals are there for a potential repeat of the late '70s and early '80s and it's critical that we not forget the lessons of our recent and long-term history out there," he said.

The similarities are not lost on farmers.

Phil Lehman, a corn and soybean farmer in the tiny central Iowa town of Alleman, said the 1980s farm crisis nearly broke him and has left him far more conservative.

"Even if I don't foresee a rapid change like happened in the '70s, the same things could easily happen, perhaps over a longer period of time," Lehman said. "I think farmers are very vulnerable at this point for a rough turnaround."

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## AUCTION

### SATURDAY, JUNE 14 — 10:00 AM

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## AUCTION

### SATURDAY, JUNE 14 — 10:00 AM

901 E. 27th, Corner of Severance & 27th, South of Ken's Pizza, HUTCHINSON, KS.

**FURNITURE, ANTIQUES & HOUSEHOLD ITEMS**  
Antique buffet with glass top cabinet and claw feet; Chittenden and Eastman Co. Burlington, IA 54" round oak table with 4 leaves and 4 chairs; oak roll top desk; oak parlor table; 2 ornate oak rockers; Kings Down elec. adj. bed; dresser; 2 chests; sofa and matching chair with ornate wood trim; bar stools; computer desk; 3 pc. blond bedroom set; glider rocker; wooden high chair; cast iron bed; end tables; swivel rocker; bookshelves; recliner with heat massager; treadle sewing machine; wall telephone; smoke chest stand; camel back trunk; green Depression; butter churn; Flo Blue dishes; crocks; oil lamp; floor and table lamps; old mirrors; pictures; cups and saucers; trunk; candle sticks; Arita Japan dishes; crystal; Valentines; paper dolls; old toys; fancy work; baskets; Pepsi crate; jewelry boxes; quilt tops; children's books; spittoon; Ruby Red glassware; washboard; cast iron kettle; knick knacks; spats; green glassware; books; Honey Well air cleaner; Whirlpool glass top range; Whirlpool 18.8 cu. ft. refrigerator; Whirlpool Status washer and dryer; Sharp microwave; Whirlpool upright freezer; Westinghouse refrigerator with boat motor; Kenmore dehumidifier; bread box; Hamilton Beach stationary mixer; George Foreman grill; Francis-dish; Pyrex; water pitchers; pots and pans; Tupperware; wooden bowls; baking stone; coffee makers; kitchen

utensils; canning jars; relish dishes; tumblers; punch bowls; elec. ice cream freezer; roasters; dehydrator; meat slicer; TV and VCR; stereo; 4 drawer file cabinet; 3 card tables and chairs; Oreck and Rainbow sweepers; paper shredder; office chair; storage containers; steam vaporizer; foot stool; rugs; bedding linens; king size bedding; afghans; vases and candles; Christmas and seasonal decorations; fiber optic tree; games; fans; Bissell carpet cleaner; luggage; hair salon supplies; floor mats.

**VEHICLE, GUNS & GARAGE ITEMS**  
2005 Toyota Rav4 Super 4x4, new tires, 4 speed, 4 cylinder, 25,000 miles, like new; Mossberg .20 ga. shotgun; Mossberg .22 repeater rifle; Cardio Glide machine; Toro SP 6.5 hp. mower; Craftsman 4 hp. mower; Snapper snow blower; B&D 2 hp. edger; Toro weed whip; B&D table saw; leaf blower; dolly cart; shop vac; metal shelving; coolers; yard decorations; bench grinder; vise; miter saw; motors; paint sprayer; bar clamps; step ladders; jig saw; Skil saw; wheelbarrow; pipe wrenches; shovels and rakes; hand tools; pickup 30" toolbox; metal table; luggage rack; creeper; Windstar captain chairs; elec., plumbing and automotive supplies; hardware; lawn chairs; garden supplies; Sunbeam gas BBQ grill; patio table with umbrella; Martin houses; lawn spreader; swing frame; birdbath and heater; bird feeders; firewood; old kerosene can and more.

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## AUCTION

### SATURDAY, JUNE 14 — 10:00 AM

Behind 302 Cottonwood Street — STRONG CITY, KS  
AUCTION LOCATION: Entrance is via the East alley behind main business block of Strong City, KS. WATCH FOR SIGNS.

REAL ESTATE SELLS AT 10:00 AM  
PERSONAL PROPERTY TO FOLLOW.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** 50'x70' building built in 1940. Cement block, wood and metal construction. No insulation. Water and gas hookups to the building, but they are not presently being utilized. Primary heat has been with a wood stove. Cement floor with drive in door. Hoist and frame in place for heavy lifting of equipment. There is also an office area, lighting and electrical outlets.

**AUCTIONEER'S NOTE:** Junior Jones did a lot of productive work in this building. This type and size of building is in a limited supply and could be just what you are looking for! The real estate will sell first allowing you the buyer to purchase shop equipment to stay in the building. Make this building go to work for you and your business!

**SHOP EQUIPMENT**  
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1973 18' Coachman camper w/bumper hitch; 1973 15' Mark Twain boat and trailer,

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**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

See last week's Grass & Grain for complete details & listings.

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## AUCTION

### MONDAY, JUNE 16 — 4:30 PM

Located at Beatty & Wischropp Auction Facility East side of OSAGE CITY, KS on Hwy. 31.

GE microwave; GE portable dishwasher; area rug; dinette set; 2 wedding dresses; several drills; Craftsman 48 in. riding mower; 2 old Coke coolers; antique corner glass and frame display case; 2 wooden ammo boxes; several sad irons; antique wall phone; antique folding wall shaving mirror; three piece soft sectional; drop leaf dining table with 2 chairs; dining table with 4 chairs; blonde china hutch; 2 antique buffets; large wall mirror; antique school desk; antique dresser; metal battery operated Dick Tracy toy car, old; metal Beatrice-Meadow Gold butter toy truck; metal Army helmet, thought to be WWI; live trap; assortment of old records; lots of tools; glassware; kitchen items and misc.

ing table with 4 chairs; blonde china hutch; 2 antique buffets; large wall mirror; antique school desk; antique dresser; metal battery operated Dick Tracy toy car, old; metal Beatrice-Meadow Gold butter toy truck; metal Army helmet, thought to be WWI; live trap; assortment of old records; lots of tools; glassware; kitchen items and misc.

NOTE: This is a combination of two sellers, both were in storage at time of listing. There are many, many items to sell. Kaufman's items are from a large 2 BR home with lots of storage and Ames' items are from a fully furnished apartment. Come early and spend the evening at this very interesting auction. There should be many small antique and collectible items, plus much more.

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# GRASS & GRAIN Our Daily Bread

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

## Reva Coash, Clyde, Shares "Farm Supper" Recipe To Win Contest

Winner Reva Coash, Clyde: "Good old-fashioned farm supper."

### CHICKEN-FRIED FRESH LITTLE TATERS

2 pounds fresh smaller potatoes, or enough to feed your family  
2 eggs, beaten well  
2 sleeves soda crackers, crushed fine (can run in food processor)  
Cooking oil

Wash and boil potatoes until crisp-tender then cool and slip off skins. Put cooked, peeled potatoes in a bowl. Pour beaten eggs over, washing the potatoes with egg. Lift out with your fingers and roll in cracker crumbs. Fry in skillet as you would chicken. Serve with fresh tomatoes and/or bread and jelly.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mary E. Duncan, Emporia: "Here is a wonderful way to use that garden fresh spinach. We really love this salad."

### DUTCH SPINACH SALAD

3 to 4 bacon slices, diced  
1 egg, slightly beaten  
3 tablespoons sugar  
1 tablespoon vinegar  
Water  
4 cups torn spinach greens  
1/2 small onion, chopped (optional)  
Salt & pepper to taste  
Hard-cooked eggs, sliced

In a small frying pan cook bacon until crisp. Do not drain. In a 1-cup measure, place egg, sugar, vinegar and enough water to make 3/4 cup; pour over bacon and grease. Cook, stirring constantly, until dressing thickens. Season to taste. Pour the hot dressing over greens and onion. Toss; garnish with egg slices. Serve immediately. Yield: 4 servings.

\*\*\*\*\*

Lucille Wohler, Clay Center: "My daughter-in-law gave me this recipe several years ago. Easy and very good."

### SCALLOPED CORN

1 can whole corn  
1 can creamed corn  
2 eggs, beaten  
1 small can evaporated milk  
1 tablespoon oleo, melted  
2 tablespoons minced onion

minutes or until bottoms are golden brown. Meanwhile crumble bacon. Turn potatoes over, sprinkle evenly with cheese and bacon. Cover skillet with lid. Cook an additional 2 minutes or until cheese is melted.

\*\*\*\*\*

Noel Miller, Maple Hill: "Great light summer meal."

### GRILLED

#### ORANGE GINGER CHICKEN SALAD

2 tablespoons oil  
1 tablespoon soy sauce  
Juice of 1 lime  
1 tablespoon finely grated fresh ginger  
4 skinless boneless chicken breast halves  
Nonstick cooking spray  
1/4 cup orange marmalade

In a shallow dish combine oil, soy sauce, lime juice and ginger. Add chicken and marinate 30 minutes, turning occasionally. Melt orange marmalade in microwave at 50% power; set aside. Spray grill grate with nonstick cooking spray and heat grill to medium heat. Place the chicken breasts on prepared grill and cook 6 minutes. Turn and cook another 5 to 6 minutes or until done. In the last few minutes of cook time, brush both sides with melted marmalade. Remove from heat; tent with foil while making salad.

#### Salad:

1/4 cup orange marmalade  
1/4 cup cider vinegar  
1/2 cup oil  
8 cups mixed greens  
15-ounce can mandarin oranges, drained  
1/2 small red onion, sliced  
1 cup cherry tomatoes, cut in half

Salt & pepper to taste  
Chopped parsley for garnish  
Place marmalade and vinegar in a blender or food processor; with the motor running, add the oil in a steady stream. Process until well blended. Season with salt and pepper. Combine the mixed greens, oranges, onion slices and cherry tomatoes in a large bowl; toss with dressing. Divide salad among serving plates and top each with a chicken breast. Garnish with chopped parsley and serve. Enjoy! Serves 4.

\*\*\*\*\*

Nancy Sparks, Clay Center: "This mixture will be of interest to the person wanting to cut down on grocery bills and those who want to reduce sodium found in canned creamed soups. I use this as a substitute in any recipe calling for cream of mushroom, celery or chicken soups. I found this recipe in the county Extension mailings."

### CASSEROLE SAUCE MIX

2 cups nonfat milk  
3/4 cup cornstarch  
1/2 teaspoon pepper  
1/4 cup instant chicken bouillon (may use low sodium bouillon variety)  
2 tablespoons dried minced onion  
1 tablespoon garlic powder  
2 tablespoons parsley, optional

Combine all ingredients and store in air-tight container. To use as a substitute for one can condensed soup, mix 1/3 cup dry mix and 1 1/4 cups water. For celery flavored, saute 1/4 diced celery and add mix and water. I do the same with mushrooms and chicken.

\*\*\*\*\*

Sharon Henson, Topeka: "A yummy appetizer for backyard barbecues."

### SPICY CHEESECAKE

(2) 8-ounce packages cream cheese, softened

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100 straight razors; razor straps; barber pole; 488 lots of marbles (Rainbo, Agate, Swirl, End of Day, Slag, Corkscrew, Oxblood, Mica); 31 pocket watches (Watham, Hamilton, Elgin, Perfection, Rex, Alden); 5 watch fobs; 7 mantle clocks; 10 kerosene lamps; Singer Featherweight sewing machine; opera glasses; scale collection; assortment granite ware; well wheels; Pabst Blue Ribbon lamp shade; large collection of football, baseball & basket ball cards; belt buckles; spittoons; yard sticks; canes; copper kettle; lanterns; crocks; fountain pens; coffee grinder; hurricane lamp; copper pitcher & plate; brass bucket; Griswold skillets inc (1098c), pans (no 8-704R), griddle #9, waffle iron (no 8 315A, 314, 885), corn stick pan 273, 7 row corn stick pan 271; Wagner ware cast iron square skillet, muffin pan, Korn Kob 7 row jr, griddle; egg beaters; butter press; cherry pitter; miners lights (1

Winchester); toasters; Griswold & KK grinders; Coleman & Wards gas irons; cow bells; assortment of other collectibles.

#### GLASS

Aunt Jemima cookie jar; McCoy apple, dog & owl cookie jars; Christmas sleigh cookie jar; Weller dish w/lid; cut glass pieces; pressed glass pieces; Fenton pieces; carnival glass pieces; hand painted bowls; 36 pc Monax pedal, 27 pc Monax Sweetheart; green depression salt & pepper; etched bird pitcher & glasses; square yellow to clear butter; Goofus plate; Indian pot; glass shoes; Czech pitchers & vase; Dutch boy & girl figures; ruby & crystal red pieces; Cornelian Agate vases; Occupied Japan tea set; creamers & sugars; collector plates; toothpick holders; ink wells; rabbit candy container; cartoon glasses.

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mag New Model Blackhaw); shotguns inc.:(Browning Gold 12 ga, Remington Trap model 1100 12 ga, Remington 20 ga, model 1100 vent rib, Browning pump 12 ga); Rifles inc.:(Browning 308 bar cal, Browning 243 w/grade 1 etching, Browning Medallion bolt 270, Browning A-bolt 243, Browning 22 rifle, Remington Sportmaster 22 model 512, Ranger 22 model 36, Remington 22 model 550-1, Remington The Scoremaster 22 model 511, Remington Fieldmaster 22 model 121, Remington 22 model 12, Winchester Long R-Super Speed 22 model 63, Winchester 22 model 63); 368 pocket knives (Keen Kutter, Winchester, Wyeths, Case XX, German, Schrade, Queen, Imperial, Bish, Mize); large collection of lures, many wooden; tackle boxes; many reels; Bear Hunter & Delta V Target bows; gun scopes; large assortment of shells; back pack; 3 WWI bayonet; holsters.

Note: The Willingham's have collected for years, there are many very quality pieces. Check our web site at [www.thummelauction.com](http://www.thummelauction.com) for pictures. Guns & knives will sell first at 10:00 a.m. We will run 2 auctions part of the day with the marbles starting at 12:00 noon. For a list of the watches, knives & marbles check the web site.

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Julene DeRouche, St. Marys:

**PURPLE RIBBON CHOCOLATE CAKE**  
 2 cups cake flour  
 2 cups sugar  
 1 teaspoon soda  
 1 teaspoon salt  
 1/2 teaspoon baking powder  
 3/4 cup water  
 3/4 cup buttermilk  
 1/2 cup shortening  
 2 eggs  
 1 teaspoon vanilla  
 4 ounces melted unsweetened chocolate (cooled)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour baking pans, (3) 8-inch pans or (2) 9-inch pans. Measure all ingredients into large bowl. Blend one-half minute on low speed. Beat 3 minutes on high. Pour evenly into pans. Bake layers 20 to 25 minutes (8-inch) or 30 to 35 (9-inch) or until they test done. Cool 10 minutes in pan. Remove from pans and let cool completely. Frost layers with Fudge Frosting.

**Fudge Frosting:**  
 1-ounce unsweetened chocolate square  
 1 cup milk chocolate chips  
 1/4 cup margarine  
 1/2 cup cocoa  
 1/2 cup milk  
 1 teaspoon vanilla  
 4 cups powdered sugar

Combine unsweetened chocolate, chocolate chips and margarine. Microwave 1 minute to melt. Stir well. Pour into large mixing bowl. Add the rest of the ingredients and beat well, 2 to 3 minutes. Add only enough powdered sugar to create frosting consistency.

Sandra Norris, Abilene: "I found this recipe in a magazine and I fixed it for the church picnic Sunday and everyone loved the Friendship Brownies."

**FRIENDSHIP BROWNIES**  
 Brownie mix  
 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour  
 2/3 cup packed brown sugar  
 3/4 teaspoon salt  
 2/3 cup sugar  
 1 teaspoon baking powder  
 1/3 cup baking cocoa  
 1/2 cup semisweet chocolate chips  
 1/2 cup chopped walnuts  
 3 eggs  
 2/3 cup vegetable oil  
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Pour the flour into a 1-quart glass container with a tight-fitting lid. Layer the brown sugar, salt, sugar, baking powder, cocoa, chocolate chips and nuts (do not mix). Cover and store in a cool dry place for up to 6 months.

To prepare brownies: in a bowl beat the eggs, oil and vanilla. Add the brownie mix and stir well. Spread into a greased 9-inch square baking pan and bake at 350 degrees for 34 to 38 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near center comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack. Yield: 16 brownies.

Mary Rogers, Topeka:

**BUTTER CAKE**  
 Crust:  
 1 yellow cake mix  
 1 large egg  
 1 stick unsalted butter, melted  
 Filling:  
 8-ounce package cream cheese, room temperature  
 2 large eggs  
 1 teaspoon vanilla  
 1 stick unsalted butter, melted  
 16-ounce package powdered sugar, plus a little more for dusting

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly spray a 9-by-13-inch pan. For the crust, in a bowl combine cake mix, egg and melted butter. Mix well until all is moistened. Pat lightly into prepared baking pan covering bottom and sides of pan. For the filling, in a bowl beat cream cheese until smooth. Add eggs and vanilla and beat until well combined. Beat in melted butter until evenly blended. On low speed gradually beat in the box of powdered sugar. Beat until smooth. Spread cream cheese mixture over crust in pan. Bake for 40 to 50 minutes until sides are set and center is still a little jiggly. Remove from oven and cool completely. Dust with powdered sugar and serve.

Sandy Hill, Eskridge:  
**OVERNIGHT ASPARAGUS STRATA**  
 1 pound fresh asparagus, trimmed & cut into 1-inch pieces  
 4 English muffins, split & toasted  
 2 cups (8 ounces) shredded Colby-Monterey jack cheese, divided

1 cup diced, fully cooked ham  
 1/2 cup chopped sweet red pepper  
 8 eggs  
 2 cups milk  
 1 teaspoon salt  
 1 teaspoon ground mustard  
 1/4 teaspoon pepper

In a large saucepan bring 8 cups water to a boil. Add asparagus, cover and cook for 3 minutes. Drain and immediately place asparagus in ice water. Drain and pat dry. Arrange six English muffin halves cut side up in a greased 9-by-13-by-2-inch baking dish. Fill in spaces with remaining muffin halves. Sprinkle with 1 cup cheese, asparagus, ham and red pepper. In a bowl whisk the eggs, milk, salt, mustard and pepper. Pour over muffins. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Take from refrigerator 30 minutes before baking. Sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake, uncovered, at 375 degrees for 40 to 45 minutes or until a knife inserted near the edge comes out clean. Let stand for 5 minutes before cutting. Yield: 6-8 servings.

Millie Conger, Tecumseh: "Another great cake."

**STRAWBERRY CAKE**  
 1 box white cake mix  
 3-ounce box strawberry gelatin  
 10-ounce package frozen strawberries in syrup, thawed & pureed  
 4 large eggs  
 1/2 cup oil  
 1/4 cup water  
 Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease (2) 9-inch round pans. In a bowl com-

bine cake mix and gelatin. Add pureed strawberries, eggs, oil and water. Beat until smooth. Pour into prepared pans and bake for 20 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean. Let cool in pans for 10 minutes. Remove from pans and cool completely on wire racks. Spread Strawberry Cream Cheese Frosting in between layers, top and sides.

**Strawberry Cream Cheese Frosting:**  
 1/4 cup butter  
 8 ounces cream cheese  
 10-ounce package frozen strawberries in syrup, thawed & pureed  
 7 cups powdered sugar  
 In a large bowl beat butter and cream cheese until creamy. Beat in 1/4 cup strawberry puree, reserving remaining for another use (can freeze to save). Gradually add powdered sugar, beating until smooth. For pinker frosting, add 2-3 drops of red food coloring.

**PEACHES & CREAM MUFFINS**  
 2 cups self-rising flour  
 1 cup unsalted butter, melted  
 1 cup sour cream  
 1/4 cup sugar  
 1 teaspoon vanilla  
 15-ounce can sliced peaches, drained & chopped into 1/4-inch pieces  
 Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Coat the cups of a 12-cup muffin tin with cooking spray. In a bowl whisk the

flour, butter, sour cream, sugar and vanilla. Gently fold in peaches. Divide the batter evenly among the muffin cups. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes or until golden and a toothpick inserted in the center of a muffin comes out clean. Let muffins cool in pan for 10 minutes. Serve immediately or transfer to rack to cool.

NOTE: Muffins will fall. \*\*\*\*\*

**Free Weekly Recipe Available Online**

Included as part of Grass & Grain's website is a "Free Weekly Recipe." You need not be a subscriber to view this recipe. Go to [www.grassandgrain.com](http://www.grassandgrain.com) and at the bottom left click on Our Daily Bread Free Weekly Recipe.

Some recipes will be selected from submissions received from area cooks while others may be suggested favorites. You may also share the recipe with friends and family by clicking on the "email page" button.

This week's recipe is Chicken Tortilla Bake from Millie Conger of Tecumseh.

**MAUDE (MRS. EARL) HIGHTOWER AUCTION**  
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 15 oz. • 8 oz.  
 4 oz.

Set includes 5 bowls with five colored lids. The bowls are microwave, dishwasher and freezer safe. Lids are dishwasher and freezer safe.

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: [agpress2@agpress.com](mailto:agpress2@agpress.com)

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corn sheller; wood nativity set; quilts; afghans; dollies; neckties; many custom made wood items; wood toys; cast iron skillet; pressed bowls; glass horse and cart; glass angels; set china; kitchen appliances; Corningware; pots and pans; Murray 10 hp. 30" riding lawn mower; Rockwell 48" wood lathe; Central Machine 16"x8" wood planer; assortment of other items.

NOTE: Mr. Hoard was a very fine craftsman. There are several pieces of custom made quality furniture he made.

**MILTON HOARD ESTATE**  
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# Should you test for Johne's Disease?

By T.S. Gatz

If skinny cows are being culled and hauled to the livestock auction facility, then think Johne's disease, a contagious slow progressing disease of the ruminant tract caused by a bacterium named Mycobacterium paratuberculosis. This silent bacterium usually infects an animal when it is extremely young but does not show itself until the animal is an adult. In the meantime, infected animals are shedding the bacterium and infecting herd mates as well as newborn and young calves.

A national study of US dairies found that approximately 22 percent of U.S. dairy farms have at least 10 percent of the herd infected with Johne's disease. The study determined that infected herds with a high Johne's disease clinical cull rate experience an average loss of \$227 per cow while herds with a low Johne's disease cull rate have an average loss of \$40 per cow. This loss was due to reduced milk production, early culling, and poor conditioning at culling. Although the

dollars lost per beef cow infected with Johne's disease have not been determined, Johne's experts know the negative drain occurs. This loss is due to lower calf weights, early culling and poor conditioning at culling.

"Research has brought many, many good Johne's tests to the table," states Dr. Mike Collins, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Wisconsin-Madison. "Which test is best answered by research conducted by the 'Best Test Team'."

This "Best Test Team," Dr. Collins elaborates, consisted of researchers from five universities: Colorado State University, Texas A&M University, University of California-Davis, University of Minnesota and University of Wisconsin. The team's objective was "to clearly define the best course of action regarding testing for paratuberculosis in dairy and beef herds by business type — commercial or seedstock, paratuberculosis infection status and infection prevalence."

The team identified eight reasons why a dairy or beef

herd should be tested for Johne's disease: 1) To classify a herd as infected; 2) To estimate within-herd prevalence; 3) To control the disease; 4) Surveillance; 5) Eradication; 6) To confirm a clinical diagnosis in a herd with no confirmed Johne's disease cases; 7) To confirm a clinical diagnosis in known infected herds; and 8) Bio-security — to test an animal before it enters the herd.

"It is important to understand why test," Dr. Collins states. "It also must be emphasized that cows are leaving herds way too fast — before diagnosis."

"Producers need to know if they have Johne's or another problem. They need to know why their cull rate is increasing. Testing will tell them the 'why'."

### Testing Options

Several types of tests are available in the detection of paratuberculosis in cattle.

These include bacterial culture, gene detection assays, antibody assays and histopathologic evaluation of tissues.

The "Best Test Team" found that, for commercial and seedstock dairy herds, bacterial culture of six fecal samples obtained from the environment is sensitive and the most cost-effective method for determining whether a dairy herd is infected.

"However, finding that all six samples yield negative results does not guarantee the herd is not infected," Dr. Collins states. "The second best testing option for this situation is PCR assay of fecal samples collected from the environment."

"Owners of herds with negative culture or PCR test results on all six samples should be encouraged to enroll their herds in the U.S. Test-Negative Program."

A test gaining popularity within the dairy industry is the milk ELISA. The milk

ELISA is less costly than a standard serum ELISA and sample collection can be incorporated into routine DHIA sampling.

Beef cow-calf and seedstock herds can whole-herd test by either bacterial culture of fecal samples or by an ELISA (Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay-) with positive results for individual cattle confirmed by bacterial culture of fecal samples. An alternative is a bacterial culture of fecal samples obtained from the environment that can be used for intensively managed herds.

"Testing recommendations should come from your veterinarian," Dr. Collins states. "But manage Johne's first and test second. Your veterinarian can help you determine which management practices work best for your situation and can help you control Johne's disease."

Collins shakes his head then states, "Owners discover Johne's disease in their

herd or flock when a single animal looks sick. They then find out by testing that many animals they own actually are infected. Usually, they can trace the infection back to an animal they bought years ago. It is depressing, particularly when so many animals now must be sacrificed to control the infection."

Producers can learn more about Johne's disease by going to the Online Producer Education Course at <http://www.vetmedce.org/index.pl?id=110337>. Producer modules cover all species, with the dairy version also having a Spanish module.

"I think you'll be surprised at the online courses as they are extremely high quality, engaging and interactive," Dr. Collins states. "In the producer modules, U.S. demonstration herds share lessons they've learned regarding the economic impact/costs, control strategies and ethical dilemmas."

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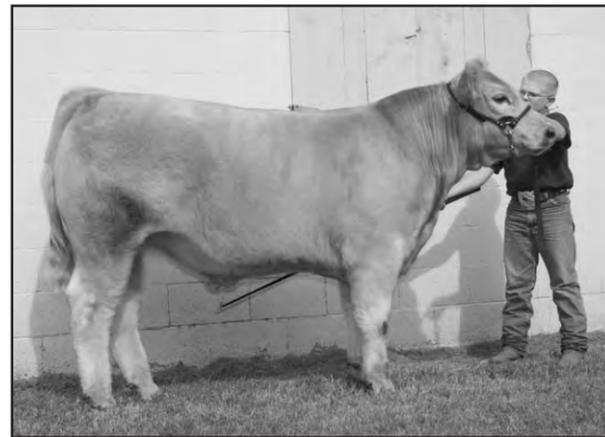
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Showmanship winners at the recent Kansas Jr. Charolais Show held in McPherson. included back row: champion junior showman Hadley Schotte, Marysville; champion intermediate showman, Ady Marston, Canton and champion senior showman Audrey Hambright, Chapman. Front row: reserve champion junior showman Katy Clawson, Satanta; reserve champion intermediate Showman Taylor Schotte, Marysville and reserve champion senior showman Megan Fink, Randolph.



Champion Kansas Junior Charolais Futurity heifer entry was exhibited by Tessa Schotte, Marysville.



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# Horsin' Around

By Don Coldsmith



## A Guy Thing

When a customer goes through the checkout at Bluestem Farm and Ranch Supply in Emporia, the ladies at the cash registers ask politely if there's anything else. Well, usually there is, but I'll think of it later, after I'm nearly home, or when I'm out at the pasture.

I stopped at the feed store the other day to pick up a few sacks of range cubes for the cattle. That saves a lot of cowboying. It's handy to have cattle come to you, just to see if you brought any cubes, even in summer. A lot easier than trying to catch them. Any-

way, I was asked the same question ... anything else? I mentioned the way I handle that question at Bluestem. Also, that Edna insists that I have withdrawal symptoms if I don't have occasion to go to Bluestem every day or two. I'm assured that there are a lot of guys like that.

"Well, that's a guy thing," said Virginia, looking up from her work at the computer. "Guys need a place like Bluestem."

Yes, I agreed. Very quickly, we had identified a number of guy things, which are gender-specific, and which most women

aren't likely to understand ... TV remote controls, and surfing the channels ... duct tape ... (Now there's a heavy one ... what did guys have before duct tape? Baling wire, probably, but what before that? Rawhide, maybe? It boggles the mind, how much older technology has been lost by the encroachment of science and industry. It's sort of sad ... nostalgia just ain't what it used to be. But, I digress ...).

Unwillingness to stop for directions if you're traveling ... (yes, we're all guilty of that one). Leaving the toilet seat up, Virginia suggested. Now I never had

much trouble with that. You don't spend many years in a house with six women, a wife and five daughters, without realizing that it's counterproductive to leave toilet seats up. Something a guy just doesn't do.

Now, it goes without saying that there are girl things which guys will never understand, too. For instance, when he asks what's the matter, and she meets the inquiry with one of two answers: a) Stony silence, or b) "If you don't know, I'm not going to tell you!"

In this situation, the best course of action is to go somewhere out of sight and ponder what might have been your infraction which initiated such behavior (maybe the toilet seat ...).

Another girl thing is shopping. I've written about that before. If a guy needs some small item, he

goes to the store and buys it (probably at Bluestem). It requires only a few moments. A woman, on the other hand, is encumbered by all sorts of rules when she goes to buy something. She must look at the item in a prescribed number of stores before the purchase (a minimum of three, apparently, though a mere man is incapable of even understanding the rules). The final fourth-quarter move is back to the first store.

As I was writing this, trying to figure out how to avoid offending female readers, the phone rang. It was a male friend, who asked if we'd like to come over for an impromptu fish fry on the following evening. It sounded like a good idea, and I checked my pocket date book ... all clear.

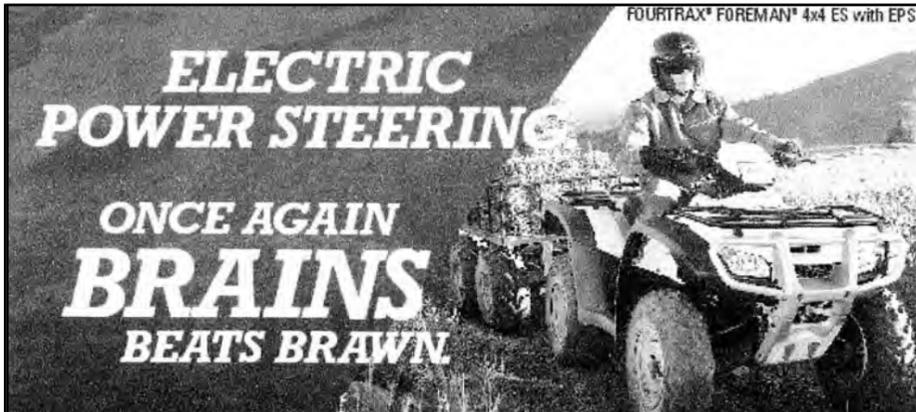
I figured I'd better clear it with Edna, though. I

hollered at her, and she said fine, sounds like fun. Our friend on the phone said okay, we'll let the girls finalize and confirm the arrangements. His wife was at hand, so I called to Edna again. She was busy, and suggested that the two guys go ahead, make and confirm the details.

I relayed the information, and the gender gap began to widen. No way, he said, that he'd be a party to making and confirming such a thing. Well, I felt nearly the same way. I was glad of the excuse to say something like, "Me too, they'll have to do it."

There are just some things that are guy things, some are girl things. Despite all the denial and the efforts to unisex everything in gender. For which, let us give thanks.

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# Corn planting deadline looms; yield losses likely

Many Missouri farmers are several weeks behind schedule on planting corn due to persistent wet weather. With the approach of the early June cutoff date for corn planting, farmers may have to switch to other crops or plant out of season despite risks of lower yields, said University of Missouri agriculture experts.

Either way, corn yields will probably be lower than last year and may fail to meet the nation's 13-billion-bushel demand. That could lead to higher food prices, reduced livestock production and ripple effects across all farm sectors, said Scott Brown, agricultural economist with the MU Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute.

"A number of factors make us worried about where yields are going to be at harvest time this year," Brown said. "We have a very strong demand for corn in this country, and now we're starting to talk about less production occurring." According to U.S. Department of Agriculture statistics, Missouri corn planting was only 83 percent complete as of June 1.

"Yield loss will in-

crease at a faster rate as we move into June," said Bill Wiebold, MU Extension corn specialist. "If we planted today, the yield would be 25 percent less than what it would have been if we planted at the optimum day, around mid-April."

Shortfalls in the nation's corn yield would affect industries reliant on corn, such as ethanol, livestock production and exporting, Brown said.

Consumers would feel the effects of lower yields through higher food prices, he said. "We are already showing corn prices that are at or near historical highs today."

Planting delays have been widespread across the Corn Belt. Many farmers planted outside the optimal window for corn or worked wet fields, risking soil compaction and other crop problems later in the growing season, Wiebold said.

Seth Brengarth, a corn farmer in New Franklin, is three weeks behind planting some fields. He worries that weakened root systems from compaction, standing water and weeds will make his crop more vulnerable to yield loss.

"Corn isn't as photo-

centric as beans, so you actually have a longer planting season," he said. "But corn is the most sensitive plant out there, I believe. A lot of the standing water affects your yield by drowning out a lot of your plants, and that way weeds will come on later in the year." Brengarth said he and many other farmers will have to decide this week whether to finish planting corn or switch to another crop. "A lot of guys are still planting corn late, but you're going to see a lot more who are going to stop planting corn and switch over to beans, or sorghum, or something else."

Late planting pushes the critical silking stage, when pollination occurs, to a less optimal time in late July, Wiebold said. "We can lose a lot of yield if we have hot and dry weather during that phase. Normally, that would be early to mid-July. Now it's going to be maybe the third or fourth week of July, and so we need a wet and cooler-than-normal July."

Despite the bad weather, Wiebold tells farmers thinking of switching crops to stay with corn through the first week of June. Soy-

bean seed, the next likely choice, is in short supply. Soybean acres have increased dramatically, due in part to some farmers abandoning corn for beans.

"We have almost no soybean seed left in this country," Wiebold said. "A farmer switching from corn to soybeans may not find the seed to plant. Or it may be seed that's not as good in quality."

Both Wiebold and Brown said that a favorable summer could still yield a decent crop.

"I remind everyone that we're very early in the season yet," Brown said. "Yes, we're very delayed, but we don't know that this will turn into a severe situation at this point. We could still have very good yields."

For Brengarth, volatility is part of making a living close to the land.

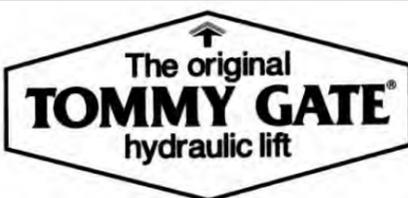
"Mother Nature is just one of those things," he said. "You never know what you're going to get. The last two years we've had a really good corn crop, so we've been lucky. This is just one of those years. If it comes to a late planting date, you've just got to grit your teeth and do it."



Earning top honors in the cattle judging contest were from left were: Kevin Schultz, Haviland, male adult; Amanda Davis (with daughter Jalyn), Maple Hill, female adult; Cameron Wilber, Belleville, pee wee; Tyler Schultz, Haviland, senior; and Cody Jensen, Courtland, junior.



Justin Moser of Westmoreland exhibited the champion bull at the Kansas Junior Hereford Show. His entry was Moser P606 Victor Domino 11T, sired by PW Victor Boomer P606.





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Hey Neighbor

# For The Love Of Horses

By Frank J. Buchman

## A Tribute To Our True Friend And Great Partner

Strong relationships can exist between a cowboy and his stallion.

When our longtime Quarter Horse sire passed away recently, we lost a close friend and important partner. Zane was his call name, and few actually knew the 27-year-old gray stallion's registered name was Trouble Steel Bar.

Besides our personal strong affection for the stud, there was commensurate admiration among those who were ever affiliated with Zane in one way or another. Our bereavement was shared by many. Not the least of those feeling the loss are the many mares, girlfriends we might contend, that Zane serviced in his lifetime.

Already a five-year-old before we became acquainted, Zane was bred, owned and standing for a lifelong breeder in Lone Rock, Iowa. Our search was for a gray stallion, with emphasis on color, along with quality and disposition, more than performance ability and pedigree.

Our heroes and customers, E.C. Roberts and Russell Klotz, as well as friend Duane Walker, raised gray horses. They insisted that color added dollars at sale time, which was our

main incentive behind Zane's purchase.

Unlike most horses we've bought, the decision wasn't immediate for Zane. We made a second trip northeast and came home with him. Already a proven sire, he was hand mated to 25 mares during his first season with us.

Then Zane went to the pasture and didn't like coming out. Oh, he didn't mind being caught, handled, ridden and driven, but when it came to doing his business as a stallion, Zane

much preferred to do it "his way, when and where he wanted."

Attempts to hand or pen mate him, like many stallions are managed, didn't fit Zane's fancy. He wasn't mean or anything, but Zane evidently just didn't like to love in public. The stud could be stalled for several days and get some

servicing done. He was even collected and mated artificially a few times. Zane liked his pasture ritual best by far.

Terrific to ride, Zane was a fine ranch horse. Fond memories also come from driving him for family buggy rides, in parades and at our son's wedding leaving the church. Zane one time even portrayed Tom Mix's white horse, Tony II, in a local pageant. He was much better than we were as Tom.

His main purpose was breeding, and Zane was a true sire in every sense of the word.

Zane's progeny included 275 registered Quarter Horses and at least another 31 Pinto and grade foals. That does not take into account this year's

crop, which should number 14. Most stallions can't claim near that many offspring.

Best thing about it is that Zane's get have his super disposition, conformation and performance ability. Majority of them are gray. They certainly are "The Cowboy's Kind," our horse breeding trademark.

Several of Zane's get have been shown in registered competition and collected a notable number of points. His production has made top riders for family, ranch, trail riding and open shows, plus being excellent breeding horses. There are

sons and daughters, plus grand get and great grand get spread around the country.

We feel fortunate to have over three dozen of Zane's offspring remaining in our foundation herd, not including this year's babies. Some of our Zane descendants are intensely linebred, which will permit us to draw on his greatness forever in our breeding program. Additionally, we have a restricted amount of Zane's semen in storage for future use.

While aging was evident,

*Continued on page 11*

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canning jars; green depression glass bowl, saucer, juicer; coffee grinder; floor lamp; license tags (Kansas); ice tongs; tins; Lawrence register of deeds; 2-KU leather coats; KU blanket; Texaco thermometer; Americana items; Ron Garvin towel; **Tools**, Durabuilt power washer like new; Yard Machine push mower; Craftsman leaf blower; weed eater; Craftsman shop vac; garden tools; hand tools; tool boxes; battery charger; appliance dolly; skil saw; ext. ladder; step ladders; **Household and Miscellaneous**, dishes; pots and pans; flatware; glassware; linens; lamps; high chair; humidifier; HP color printer; folding picnic table; tent; air mattresses (one queen one full); Tonka trucks; dolls & doll clothes; doll bed; toy box; area rugs; lots of seasonal items; 7 - ceiling fans; foot locker; DVD movies; books (children, hard back, paper back); TV trays; booster seats; 2- large decks and wooden shed; stepping stones; file cabinet; folding table; curtains; pictures; luggage.

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Continued from page 10

Zane's condition and health

remained strong through most of the past year. During the winter, he started

losing weight; yet continued coming to evening grain feed and ruling the dozen broodmares in his band. He may have settled a couple of mares already this spring.

Although Zane could have been placed in a barn, fed rations formulated for aging horses and perhaps lived longer, he would not have been happy cooped up. Slower than usual coming for grain the day before passing, Zane was still getting around just a few hours before he layed down, was unable to get up and passed away.

Zane is buried on a small knoll overlooking the ranch headquarters, beside horses B Bar and Trigger, and dogs Bandit and Purdie. A monument will be placed at the gravesite.

Our close friend and great partner, Zane was truly a blessing and will always be remembered and appreciated.



Zane was a Quarter Horse breeding stallion, who also found diverse occupations as ranch mount, movie star and buggy horse. Shown in a portrait as a six-year-old, the gray stud performed as Tom Mix's white horse, Tony II, in a local pageant, and put under harness served well for a wedding party.

## Payments have increased for hunting program and additional prairie signup offered

Landowners interested in the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks' (KDWP) Walk-In Hunting Access Program (WIHA) — which pays landowners to allow hunting access on their land — are reminded that the deadline for enrollment is July 1. The WIHA program, which began in 1995, grew to more than one million acres in 2007, including almost 3,000 contracts.

Almost anyone who owns, leases, or manages 80 contiguous acres of land with suitable wildlife habitat can qualify. A little more than half the land enrolled in WIHA is federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) grass, but other lands are also considered, including native rangeland, weedy wheat stubble, milo stubble, and riparian and wetland areas. After receiving a request, KDWP biologists evaluate the wildlife habitat on applicants' land. Payment rates are based on the size and location of tracts and the number of months the landowner wants

the land open to hunting. A 50-percent additional incentive payment is offered for WIHA in the following urban counties: Butler, Coffey, Cowley, Douglas, Franklin, Harvey, Jackson, Jefferson, Kingman, Leavenworth, Lyon, Miami, Osage, Ottawa, Reno, Saline, Sedgwick, Shawnee, Sumner, Johnson, Wyandotte, and Wabaunsee.

Once enrolled, the property is posted and included in maps published in a free atlas provided by KDWP. Natural resource officers periodically patrol WIHA properties. In addition, state law provides additional protection to private individuals who lease their agricultural land to the state for recreational purposes from liability for damages or injuries resulting from ordinary negligence. Lease options include open periods running Sept. 1-Jan. 31 and Nov. 1-Jan. 31. A popular spin-off is the Spring Turkey WIHA, April 1- May 31. For more information, phone (620) 672-5911.

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**ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES**  
Several pieces of Duke Runyon's pottery; Rocking horse; Metal Hubley tractor; Old wood trunk; Oak school desk; Old record player; Redwing 3 gal. crock; 3 small wood benches; Red handled kitchen misc.; Avon bottles; Lefton music box - some other Lefton; Red Bird collection - lots and lots all sizes and shapes; Danbury mint collection bird & calendar; Clear glass, long stem; 2 pieces Faro by Roman - Last Supper; Cartoon glass; Occupied Japan teapot; USA cookie jar; Jug; Set - apple cookie jar, salt & pepper; Ferris wheel relish center; Some clear glass ware; More items

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# US companies announce plans to label beef bound for S. Korea with cattle's age after protests

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (AP) — Several U.S. beef companies said they will begin labeling shipments to South Korea to note how old slaughtered cattle were at the time of their death, responding to weekend protests over fears that U.S. beef imports carry a risk of mad cow disease.

Springdale-based Tyson Foods Inc., as well as Cargill Meat Solutions Corp., JBS Swift & Co., National Beef Packing Co. and Smithfield Beef Group Inc., said the labels would show whether the cattle were younger or older than 30 months when slaughtered. The companies said in a joint news release that it would be up to South Korean customers to decide whether to purchase the meat or not.

Younger cows are believed to be less at risk for

mad cow disease.

U.S. beef has been banned by South Korea for most of the past 4 1/2 years over fears of mad cow disease. The South Korean Agriculture Ministry said in April it would begin loosening restrictions on U.S. beef imports, beginning with imports from cattle younger than 30 months.

Last week, the ministry announced that the government had finalized new regulations that call for South Korea to import nearly all cuts of American beef without restrictions on the cattle's age.

Nearly 60,000 people took to the streets of Seoul over the weekend to denounce the government and call for the import agreement to be scrapped, and South Korea announced Monday that it would delay its

planned resumption of U.S. beef imports.

"We're making this offer in response to the concerns of some South Korean consumers by voluntarily implementing this temporary labeling program as a way of ensuring the reopening of the market and attempting to rebuild the confidence of the South Korean consumer," Tyson spokesman Gary Mickelson said.

For Tyson, the world's largest meat producer, the loss of the South Korean market four years ago tore away its third-largest export location, behind Japan and Canada. In 2003, South Korea represented 15 percent of its \$2.2 billion international sales, Mickelson said. Last year, the company reported international sales of \$1.9 billion.

Mark Klein, a spokesman

for Minneapolis-based Cargill, declined to discuss the share of its export sales formerly represented by South Korea but described the market as "one of the leading destinations for U.S. beef."

"It was a very good customer," Klein said. "We're trying to demonstrate we want their business."

Under the companies' plan, the labels would be used for up to 120 days. Mickelson said the companies were still working out how the labels would look and where they would be placed on boxes.

Scientists believe mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, spreads when farmers feed cattle recycled meat and bones from infected animals. The U.S. banned recycled feeds in 1997.

In 2003, South Korea joined Japan in banning U.S. beef imports after a cow in Washington state tested positive for mad cow disease. Officials later determined the cow had been born in Canada.

Japan lifted its ban in 2005 but imposed it again in January 2006 after an import violation. U.S. beef shipments to Japan resumed in July 2006, but sales became a fraction of what they once were.



It was a family act for the intermediate showmanship division at the recent Kansas Junior Hereford field day held in Abilene. Cody Jensen left was named reserve intermediate showman while Brady Jensen was tapped as champion. Judge for the show was Brigham Stewart.

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# U.S. eyes are on competing export countries

As the 2008 wheat harvest is about to begin in Kansas, it's a good time to review the just-completed 2008 market year and glance at the wheat conditions in our major competitor wheat export countries.

It appears likely that total U.S. wheat export sales in 2007/08 will be more than 1.4 billion bushels or 42 percent higher than in 2006/07, which saw sales of 873.5 million bushels.

A year ago, USDA forecast U.S. wheat exports for 2007/08 would be 972.6 million bushels, but as weather problems appeared around

the world and demand increased, U.S. exports soared even during a time of unprecedented high prices caused by declining global stocks over the past several years, increased demand, increased speculative trading volume and weather problems.

After responding to this demand, total U.S. wheat stocks will end the year at an estimated 256.9 million bushels, the lowest level in 60 years, but wheat production in the coming year is estimated to be up 16 percent, while worldwide production is shown up 8 per-

cent. Ag exports across the board are forecast up significantly. USDA said Friday that U.S. agricultural exports will reach a record \$108.5 billion in the 2008 fiscal year, \$26.5 billion above the final 2007 export figure. Despite rising agricultural imports, the new forecast's realization would mean a \$30 billion ag trade surplus.

All eyes are on Australia as the specter of drought has returned to the world's second largest exporter. The planting season is coming to a close as winter in the Southern Hemisphere officially begins in 3 weeks. Rabobank revised its production forecast for the country down 110.1 million bushels this week. Giving hope to producers in the driest areas, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology forecasts the eastern part of the country will receive above average rainfall over the winter months while drier conditions are expected for the currently verdant southwest.

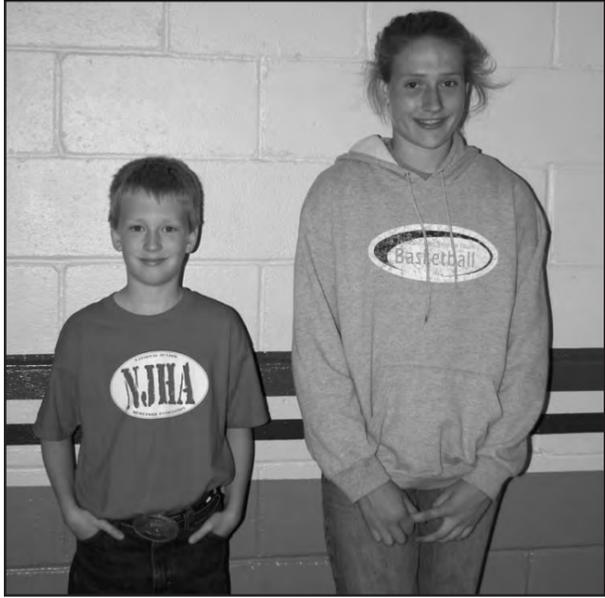
Rains in Southern Europe cause quality concerns, raising fears of a repeat of last year's problems as continuing precipitation in Italy and Spain is not favorable for ripe wheat. Northern Europe reportedly looks good with Germany's government estimating plantings up nearly 7%

this year, thanks in large part to the temporary mitigation of set-aside requirements. Russia will not extend export taxes, with caveats. The Russian Agriculture Minister said this week there is no reason to extend the 40% export tariffs beyond June as prices are declining and a record harvest expected. He also said Russia should focus on value-added exports, such as flour and meat products, rather than grains. Another government official outlined a government plan to buy up to 110.1 million bushels of wheat to be sold later in the year to keep prices low, which would be accompanied by another round of export tariffs. This week, neighboring Kazakhstan expanded its export ban on wheat to include flour, the ban is due to expire in September.

Argentine problems continue as the government cancelled talks with producer groups early this week. The government issued a revised tax structure, but the wheat export registry is expected to remain closed. Local reports indicate significant quantities of exportable supplies in the country, but the government wants to keep domestic prices low. The Buenos Aires Grain Exchange estimated area

seeded with wheat will fall 8% below last year due to low prices as well as dry conditions. High prices in Brazil are motivating higher plantings as the country is now starting winter wheat seeding.

India may lift its ban on wheat exports according to the country's Farm Minister due to a bumper harvest and strong government procurement for its subsidized food programs.



Justin Moser of Westmoreland and Tara Jo Ellerman of Everest took top honors in the Herdsman Award category at the Kansas Junior Hereford Show.

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**EQUIPMENT AUCTION**  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 21 — 10:00 AM**

LOCATION: 5 miles North of ALLEN, KANSAS (Hwy. 56) on County Road L to Rd. 350 then 2 miles West to auction site.

**TRACTORS**  
1985 JD 4850 MRWD SNRW4850P008019, cab, power shift transmission, hrs. 5062; 1979 JD 8440 WD, SN8440H001841R, engine not operating, cab, quad range transmission, hrs. 10534; 1987 Ford TW-25 with FWA, SNA917291; cab, quad range, hrs. 3467; 2005 Skidsteer New Holland LS180, hrs. 1700.

1979 Mack 50 cement truck, 76,839 miles; Titan stock trailer, 7'x20' gooseneck, good condition.

**MANURE SPREADER**  
Hagedorn pull type hydra spread 275 tandem axle, nice; Kuhn/Knight 1170 spreader box off truck, nice.

**LOADER**  
2004 GM 860, nice condition; GB bale spear, bucket.

**MISCELLANEOUS**  
Winpower PTO generator on trailer; Vigertone mineral tank with auger; 3 - 2500 gal. poly tanks with Schaben pump; 9,000 gal. poly tank; approx. 2,000 gal. fuel tank with electric pump; JD 7 shank 3 pt. deep ripper; D7Max bunk broom; Rhino 9 ft. 900 blade; 2 water pumps; FIMCO approximately 200 gal. tank and sprayer, Briggs & Stratton motor, 5 hp.; Otter 14 ft. dozer blade; sloop pusher attachment for skidsteer; Danuser post hole digger with auger for skidsteer mounting; 2 IHC 20 hole 510 drills with 7.5 spacing and double hitch; Krause 18 ft. tandem disc; tons of ground hay, stored inside, buyer to move; 20 - 12 ft. metal feed bunks; 6 - 12 ft. concrete J bunks; misc. shop tools, grinders, compressor, welder, filters, scrap iron.

**TRUCKS & TRAILER**  
1990 Ford L-8000 with Roto Mix Box Model 600-16, SN490501062, 116,503 miles;

**AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: Come purchase some usable farm, ranch, feedlot equipment. There aren't many small items so be here at 10:00 sharp. We'll look forward to seeing you at the auction.**

**AUCTION TERMS: Cash or approved check. All statements made day of auction take precedence over advertisements. Owners and auction company not responsible for accidents or theft.**

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# AUCTION

**SATURDAY, JUNE 14 — 9:45 AM**

Due to health concerns, the following sells located 6 miles North on Hwy. 75 from LYNDON, KS.; OR , Approx. 18 miles South on Hwy. 75 from TOPEKA, KS.

**REAL ESTATE Sells at 9:45 A.M.**  
DESCRIPTION: 41 Acres +/- unimproved land with rural water available, mostly grassland with some tillable, there are no division fences on two sides. Would make good building site close to Pomona Lake.

LOCATION: From Lyndon, KS, 2 Miles North on Hwy 75, then 3 Miles East on Hwy 268, then 1/4 North on Vassar Street. (Located just to Southwest Edge of Vassar, KS) (Drive-By Inspection anytime.)

AUCTION LOCATION: Will be sold at the Primary Auction Site, 6 miles North of Lyndon, KS, on Hwy 75 at 9:45 A.M.

INFORMATION: Century 21 Miller-Midyett 1513 N. Topeka Ave., Lyndon, KS. 785-828-2599. Neva Smith, Listing Agent - Wayne Wischropp, Realtor Auctioneer - Jennifer Courtney, Broker - Tom Lane, Associate Broker.

## TRACTORS, FARM & LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT, TRAILERS, GUNS, TOOLS, HOUSEHOLD, HORSES, TACK GREYHOUND EQUIPMENT

I.H. 806 DSL. Tractor Wheatland, Fenders, w/G.B. 900 Hi-Master Loader, Bale Fork and Bucket; J.D. 420 Tractor, NFE, No Fenders, 3 Pt., SN100929; J.D. 4000 Dsl. Tractor, WFE, 3 Pt. Cab; J.D. 3010 Dsl. Tractor, WFE, 3 Pt., R.O.P.'s Fenders, Good Rubber; A.C. 'D' Road Grader, 4 Cy. Gas Engine; M.F. 540 Dsl. Combine, Cab, 12 ft. Head; J.D. 45 Combine - Salvage; J.D. 310 Auger Wagon; J.D. 330 Hyd. Wing 22 ft. Disk; J.D. 1630, 16 ft. Plow Disk; J.D. 37 Pull Type 9 ft. Mower, Needs Repair; J.D. 8000 Grain Drill, D-D w/Frt. Springtooth Attachment; J.D. 6 - R Cultivator, 3 pt.; Bush Hog TH-72 Grooming Mower, 3 pt.; A.C. 21 ft. Hyd. Field Cultivator; I.H. Steel Wheel Manure Spreader; Post Hole Auger, Hyd. Drive, 3 pt.; Huskee 225 Gravity Flow Box on Gooseneck Dual Wheel Trailer; A.C. 6 Bottom Semi-Mount Plow, 3 pt.; Cultivator, 6-row, 3 pt.; Dempster Grain Drill, Salvage; Big Bale Fork, 3 pt.; J.D. 4 Bottom Semi-Mount Plow, 3 pt.; 2 - Shaver Post Drivers; Clark Field Sprayer, Salvage; Hydro H.D. 9 ft. Blade, 3 pt.; Springtooth Pull Type Harrow; Rhino 8 ft. Rotary Mower, 3 pt.; Bush Hog 14 ft. Rotary Mower; Vermeer 605F Big Baler; Portable Loading Cute; 3 - Flatbed 4-Wheel Wagons; 3 - 4-Wheel Running Gears; 2 Continental Field Sprayers; Automatic 12 V. Sprayer; Wellco Hi-Lift Loader, w/Bucket & Spear; Automatic Mist Blower, 3 pt.; Old Trk. Frame w/1500 Gal. Steel Tank; Atlas Copco Portable Air Compressor; Silensair - Dsl. Engine, XAS50; Jack Hammer; Hollup N20 Arch Welder, Older Unit; Hilti Forna 765 Hammer Drill; 10-Ton Body/Frame Porta Power, Like New; B & D Circular Saw; Gear Puller Set; Grizzly 18 in. Wood Band Saw; Engine Hoist, 2 Ton; Air Operated 1/4 T. Chain Hoist; Slide Hammer; Socket Set 3/4 in. Drive; Large Vise on Barrel; Shop Depot 20 T Hyd. Jack Press; 2 Handy Man Jacks; Several Electric Motors; Hydraulic Hoses 7 Cylinders; Pipe rack; Some Pipe & Sucker Rod; 500 Gal. Steel Water Tank; Grain Bin Sweep Auger; Ariens Rear Tine Tiller; Swisher Model T-40 Pull Behind Mower w/Briggs Engine; Big-Mow 3-Wheel Riding Mower; 12 - Rolls of Woven Wire, Several Full; Approx. 14 Hedge Corner Posts; Several Railroad Ties; Windmill an Blade 6 ft.; V-Type Hay Feeder; 2 - Pride of Farm Metal Calf Self Feeder; Powder River 5 Panel Working Pen w/Head Gate; 4 Oblong Pipe Hay Feeder; Pearson Squeeze Chute; 10 Big Bale Rings; Approx. 45+ Pipe Panels or Gates; Several Feed Bunks; 8 Metal Feed Bunks; 13 - Six Bar 22 ft. Continuous Fence Panels; 19 - 8'x7'x3' R.R. Car Side Panels; 2 6x8 ft. Steel Buildings; Approx. 100 Bales Square Wire

Tie Brome Hay; L. White Stock Saddle; Miller Roughtout Stock Saddle; Sunbeam Clip Master Clippers; 2 - Plastic Steer Roping Heads one on Skids; Selection of Bridles - Halters - Tack; Some Vet equipment; Chevy 4 Sp/4WD Transmission; 4 Chain Link Walk Thru Gates; 1964 Chevrolet C-60 Truck w/Grain Bed & Hoist; 1985 Ford F-250 Pickup, 6.9 Dsl. A.T. Needs Injector Pump, Extended Cab; 1979 WW Gooseneck Steel Flatbed 8x20 ft. Triple Axle Trailer w/Nose Deck; Shopbuilt All Steel 25 ft. Gooseneck Dual Tandem Flatbed Trailer, No Title; Circle D 7x24 Ft. Gooseneck Stock Trailer; W.W. Two Horse Trailers; Kawasaki 2510 Mule 4x4 Dsl. R.O.P.'s.

## GUNS & ARROWHEADS Sells First Following Real Estate

Ruger M-77 Bolt 270 Cal. Rifle; Winchester 1200 12 ga. Pump; Inter Arms 22 Auto Rifle; Marlin Model 336 30-30 Rifle; Remington 572 22 Pump Rifles & Scope; Ruger 10-22 Auto Rifle w/Scope; Winchester 94 22 Auto Rifle; Remington 11-48 20 Ga. Auto; Stevens Model 22 410 Over/Under Plastic Stock, 1940's; Remington 870 Express 410 Pump Unfired; Francie 12 ga. Pump; Single Shot 410; Selection of Ammo - Some Very Old; 3 Wall Plaques w/Display Boxes w/Approx. 80+ Arrow Heads Each; Cedar 21 Gun Cabinet, Hand Made, Nice; Antique Gate Leg Drop Leaf Table w/Leaves; 3 Wooden Bed Frames; 3 Antique Straight Back Chairs; 4 Cain Bottom Chairs; Dazey 4 Qt. Butter Churn; Grocery Store Meat Counter Scales; Brown Stone Jug; Several Old Dolls; Aluminum Water Set; Some Old Toys; Selection of Christmas Decor; Metal Cake Carrier; 3 child's red wagons, needing repair; old sled; coffee table; electric Meat Grinder; 3 Window Air Conditioners; Johnson 6 HP Outboard Motor; Chest Freezer; Hand Meat Grinder; Wooden Fish Trap; Fairbanks Platform Scales; Set of Dump Rake Teeth; Steel H.D. Steel Live Trap; 2 Man Cross Cut Saw.

**GREYHOUND EQUIPMENT**  
Eight stall whelping house complete w/pens, to be moved, good cond.; approx. 20 4x20 ft wire 7 pipe frame dog panels; 2 Greyhound houses w/shades; 5 Pet Porter shipping crates; several wire dog crates; several Sheep/Dog water tanks; set of heat pads for dog/pig pens; Shopbuilt 36 hole dog trailer; dog trailer, salvage; metal 4-hole Greyhound starting box; paper shredder.

**HORSES**  
AQHA Registered 8 yr. Old Bay Gelding, proven ranch & heading horse, finished in top half ranch horse competition at 2007 Emporia Beefest; 2 AQHA coming 2 yr. old Geldings, cow bred, not registered.

**MANY OTHER ITEMS TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION.**  
NOTE: This is a large Auction, with a great cross section of items. Please make plans to join us June 14, sure to be something you want to buy.

**INSPECTION DAY OF SALE ONLY**

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## Scammon youth lands record fish

A new Kansas state record largemouth bass was caught in a private strip pit in Cherokee County on May 3 and has been certified by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP). Fourteen-year-old Tyson Hallam, of Scammon, took the trophy fish during the West Mineral Eagles Fishing Tournament using a jig and pig. The monster largemouth weighed 11 pounds, 12.8 ounces, edging the 31-year-old state record of 11 pounds, 12 ounces caught in 1977 by Kenneth Bingham of Topeka.

The fish was weighed on a certified scale and witnessed by Mined Land Wildlife Area manager David Jenkins, along with Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks fisheries biologist Rob Friggeri, who confirmed the species and measured the fish at 28 inches long and 19 1/8 inches in girth.

A potential state record fish must remain intact until officially certified as a state record. Anyone who believes they have caught a state record fish must bring the fish to a grocery store or

other business with certified scales as soon as possible. The weighing must be witnessed. The fish must be species-confirmed by a Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks fisheries biologist or a Wildlife and Fisheries Division regional supervisor. A color photograph of the fish must accompany the application. Frozen fish and species that are threatened or endangered will not be accepted.

All applications for state records require a 30-day waiting period before certification.



New officers for the Kansas Jr. Charolais Association were elected at the recent Kansas Jr. Charolais Show held in McPherson. They are left To right: president, Tessa Schotte, Marysville; vice president Megan Fink, Randolph; secretary Kyla Clawson, Satanta; treasurer Allison Jones, Manhattan; reporter Elizabeth Forsyth, Abilene; and northern director Taylor Schotte, Marysville. Not pictured was Kendal Clawson, southern director.

## Greater corn ear size can compensate for early stand loss

Wet, windy weather, sometimes marked by hail in the central Plains may have some corn growers wondering if stand loss means they should replant their crop, a Kansas State University agronomist said.

Stand loss in corn usually causes relatively little yield loss, at least at populations greater than 24,000 plants per acre, said Kraig Roozeboom, K-State Research and Extension crop production specialist. The amount of yield reduction from stand loss depends on the stage of growth, he added.

Research by Barney Gordon at K-State's North Central Experiment Field near Belleville evaluated the effect of stand loss on yields, ear number, and ear size by removing plants at various stages of growth. This study showed that:

Yield loss was much less than stand loss at every growth stage.

Yield loss was greater when stand losses occurred at later growth stages.

Ear number per plant increased slightly at 50 percent stand loss, and more at 75 percent stand loss.

Seed weight did not change as a result of stand loss.

Ear size increased with greater stand loss at early stages of growth.

When a producer is considering replanting due to poor stands, they should keep in mind that planting corn in early June in much of Kansas can result in yield

losses of up to 50 percent compared to a typical planting date, Roozeboom said.

"It would probably be better to keep an existing stand even with as much as 30 to 40 percent stand loss than to replant in early June in most of Kansas. Of course, much depends on the actual number of plants remaining, uniformity of the remaining stand, and the weather for the rest of the growing season," he said.

## Hail damage to corn

*Continued from page 1*

The four-week period centered around silking is critical for corn, and not only in regard to hail damage, Roozeboom added.

"Drought stress, excessive moisture, extreme heat, diseases, and even high winds can all stress the plant at this critical stage of growth and reduce yields," he said. "Early in this period, stress can reduce kernel number by limiting potential ear size. Stress right at silking can reduce the number of kernels fertilized. And stress just after silking can cause fertilized kernels to abort."

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# GRASS & GRAIN Auction Sales Scheduled

check out the on-line schedule at [www.grassandgrain.com](http://www.grassandgrain.com)

June 10 — Real Estate at Manhattan for Farmers National Company.

June 10 — Chase Co. land at Cottonwood Falls for Carole A. States & the late Joe States. Auctioneers: Rick Griffin Auctions.

June 11 — Furniture, appliances, antiques, collectibles, household & misc. at Manhattan for Roger Schultz. Auctioneers: Gannon Auctions.

June 12 — Vehicles, guns, antiques, household, tools & misc. at Belleville for Richard Ahrens Estate. Auctioneers: Novak Brothers & Gieber.

June 12 — Antiques, new hardware & bolts, mechanic tools at Abilene for Hottman Machine Shop. Auctioneers: Reynolds, Mugler & Geist.

June 12 — Real Estate & personal property at St. George for Steve Kraxberger. Auctioneers: Gannon Auctions.

June 13 — Furniture, collectibles, artwork, guns, household, boat, golf clubs, tools, fishing, yard equip. & misc. at Manhattan for Larson Estate. Auctioneers: Gannon Auctions.

June 13 & 14 — Bedding, fabric, household, appliances, shop & garden, antiques, collectibles, antique furniture at Delphos for Mary Jo Haley Estate. Auctioneers: Bid-N-Buy Auctions.

June 14 — 7th annual consignment auction at Abilene for The Mid-America Pony & Miniature Ponies. Auctioneers: Don Chegwidan & Charley Konig.

June 14 — Loader-backhoe, dump trucks, dozer, semi's, trailers, dirt working equip. & shop tools at Plainville for Plainville

Trenching & Backhoe LLC. Auctioneers: Ashley's Auctions.

June 14 — Victorian furniture & glassware at Junction City for Mona Kessinger Estate. Auctioneers: Brown Real Estate & Auction Service, LLC.

June 14 — Consignment auction at Washington. Auctioneers: Raymond Bott, Lee Holtmeier & Luke Bott.

June 14 — Real estate, livestock equip. & misc. at Leonardville for Anderson Farms. Auctioneers: Gannon Auctions.

June 14 — Antique furniture, antiques, glassware, silver & collectibles at Junction City for Mona Kessinger Trust. Auctioneers: Brown Real Estate & Auctions.

June 14 — Real Estate & personal property, farm equipment & dog equipment at Lyndon for Gerald (Cheese) & Judy Marten. Auctioneers: Beatty & Wischropp Auctions.

June 14 — Vehicles, antiques, household, tools & misc. at Belleville for Eileen Plevka. Auctioneers: Novak Brothers & Gieber.

June 14 — Tractors, vehicles, equip./construction tools, guns, ammo, knives, hunting, furniture, household & misc. at Baldwin City for Jerry Parmer-Parmer Construction, LLC. Auctioneers: Elston Auction Co.

June 14 — Antiques, period furniture, collectibles, glassware, pottery, toys, games, linens, needlework, crocks & misc. at Topeka. Auctioneers: Whitmore Auction.

June 14 — Complete machine shop inventory,

metal lathes, milling machine, micrometers, shafting & reamers at Abilene for Hottman Machine Shop. Auctioneers: Reynolds, Mugler & Geist.

June 14 — Dozer, tractors, crane, grader, Dynalift, equipment, auto, Club Car, car & horse trailer, scrap iron, aluminum & misc. at Williamsburg for The Burch Family. Auctioneers: Eastern Ks. Auction Barn.

June 14 — Real Estate, shop equipment, campers, boats, mowers & misc. at Strong City for Jones Truck & Tractor Repair. Auctioneers: Rick Griffin Auctions.

June 14 — Tractors, vehicles, tools, appliances, furniture, antiques, collectibles, trailer, mower & outdoor equip. & misc. at El Dorado for Marjorie McKinney. Auctioneers: Sundgren Auctions.

June 14 — Furniture, antiques, household, vehicle, guns & garage items at Hutchinson for Cliff & Nadine Miller. Auctioneers: Schmidt Auctions.

June 16 — Appliances, antiques, tools, glassware, kitchen items, furniture, toy trucks & misc. at Osage City for LeAnn & Stanley Kaufman & The Late Ron Ames. Auctioneers: Beatty & Wischropp Auctions.

June 17 — Jackson Co. land at Holton for Jack & Karen Beightel. Auctioneers: Dan Harris.

June 19 — Household, tools & mower at Courtland for Milton Hoard Estate. Auctioneers: Bob Thummel Auctions.

June 21 — Lots of vintage clothing, primitives, book collection & misc. at Junction City for Mona Kessinger Estate. Auc-

tioners: Brown Real Estate & Auction Service, LLC.

June 21 — Vehicles, mower, furniture & misc. at Concordia for Marikay Hull Estate. Auctioneers: Larry Lagasse Auction & Real Estate.

June 21 — Miscellaneous, antiques at Abilene. Auctioneers: Thompson & Shivers.

June 21 — Antiques & collectibles, vintage clothing, military items, old newspapers at Junction City for Mona Kessinger Trust. Auctioneers: Brown Real Estate & Auctions.

June 21 — Farm equipment, boat, camper, tools, household & lots of misc. SE of Salina for Dale Billups. Auctioneers: Roger A. Johnson & Sons.

June 21 — Large machinery & antiques at Siebert, CO for Edwards (Jerry) Sayles Estate. Auctioneers: Wegener Realty & Auctions.

June 21 — Real Estate, vehicles, furniture, appliances, household, yard & garden items, shop items & misc. at Silver Lake for Floyd & Ruth Gee. Auctioneers: Gannon Auctions.

June 21 — Household, antiques, collectibles & tools at Marysville for Kenny & Regina Byers Estate. Auctioneers: Prell Auctions.

June 21 — Furniture, collectibles, tools, household & misc. at Lawrence for Gerald & Diane Bulleigh. Auctioneers: Paxton Auctions.

June 21 — Farm machinery, antiques, collectibles & household at Abilene for Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Appel. Auctioneers: Reynolds, Mugler & Geist.

June 21 — Tractors, trucks, trailer, loader, misc. equipment N. of Allen for Property of The Exchange National Bank. Auctioneers: Rick Griffin Auctions.

June 21 — Restaurant equipment at Sabetha for

Gus' Grill-Gus & Layla Giorgakopoulos. Auctioneers: Hartter Auctions.

June 21 — Real Estate, antiques, collectibles, mobility scooter, furniture, appliances, yard & garden, shop & tools at Claflin for Margaret L. Meier & The Late Harold E. Meier. Auctioneers: Schremmer Auctions.

June 22 — Tools & collectibles at Clifton for Charles & Pat Rand. Auctioneers: Raymond Bott, Lee Holtmeier & Luke Bott.

June 22 — Consignment sale at Assaria. Auctioneers: Blomquist Auctions.

June 23 — Ellis Co. Real Estate at Ellis for Kuehnl Family Limited Partnership. Auctioneers: Farmland Auctions.

June 24 — Antiques & household at Washington for the Edith Materi Estate. Auctioneers: Raymond Bott, Lee Holtmeier & Luke Bott.

June 27 — Marion Co. Real Estate & personal property E. of Goessel. Auctioneers: JP Weigand Realtors.

June 28 — Farm sale with tractor at Elmo for Don Guthals. Auctioneers: Thompson & Shivers.

June 28 — Equipment & horse tack at Waverly for Russ Kistner Estate. Auctioneers: Joe Biggs & Associates.

July 5 — Allen Co. land & equipment at Mildred for

D.W. & JoeAnn Garrison. Auctioneers: Joe Biggs & Associates.

July 15 — Pasture, wildlife habitat & cropland near Miltonvale for Wendell McConnell Estate. Auctioneers: Clay County Real Estate, Greg Kretz & Gail Hauserman, salesmen & auctioneers.

July 26 — Antiques & collectibles at Greenleaf for Jane Miller. Auctioneers: Uhlik Auction.

August 2 — Consignment auction at Lyndon. Auctioneers: Harley Gerdes Auctions.

August 16 — Annual Hanover Firemans consignment auction at Hanover.

August 23 — Leather & tack shop items, antiques & collectibles, general household at Clay Center for Paul Williams. Auctioneers: Mugler Auction Service, LLC.

August 23 — Leather shop, household & collectibles at Clay Center for Paul Williams. Auctioneers: Mugler Auction Service.

September 1 — 13th annual Labor Day consignment auction at Lyndon. Auctioneers: Harley Gerdes Auctions.

September 6 — Fall machinery auction at Clay Center. Auctioneers: Mugler Auction Service, LLC.

September 21 — Murray Ranches Production Horse Sale at Alma. Auctioneers: Steve Murray.

## Zookeepers must develop ways to communicate with wildlife

SALINA (AP) — Baby-Baby the potbellied pig loves to have her tummy rubbed. She's never said as much in words, but Debbie Zerbe, a volunteer keeper Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure, a zoo near Salina, doesn't need words to know. And Baby-Baby knows by the tone in Debbie's voice when Debbie greets her that she is willing to rub.

Pokemon, one of three sugar gliders at the Salina-area zoo, was sick not long ago. He couldn't tell Debbie he was sick, but she knew.

"We knew by the way he was acting," said Zerbe, who has been a volunteer keeper at the zoo for about 2 1/2 years. "They can't tell you when something isn't going well. They have to show it by their behavior, what they are or aren't eating and by what comes out the other end."

Tohlo, one of the zoo's four chimpanzees, missed Nicole Covington when she left for nine days to go to Mexico. He didn't say so, but he sulked while she was gone. And he celebrated when Covington returned.

"We, as keepers, do find ways to communicate with the animals we care for," said Vickie Musselman, head keeper at Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure, six miles west of Salina.

That communication helps to ensure the animals are cared for not only physically, with food and safe enclosures, but also stimulat-

ed intellectually. It also builds strong relationships between the animals and the keepers. Covington said she and partner Christine Ashcroft talk to all the primates they care for.

"They understand about three-fourths of what we say, so I'll talk to them just like you would a person," Covington said. When it's time for them to eat, she'll holler at the chimpanzees, "Hey boys, it's supper time." The animals come running most of the time.

Sometimes, Shudak, the smart but introverted chimpanzee the keepers sometimes call "the Einstein of the group," will play games and take his time coming in.

Sometimes, none of the animals want to do something they are asked. And make no mistake, the keepers say, everything the keepers ask of the animals are requests, because they can't be made to do anything.

"Just like you talk to them like you would a person, you also give them space just like you would a person," Covington said. "Usually, if they don't come in, they have a good reason."

Megan Vohs said trust is an important part of the relationship she has with the carnivores, including the cats and bears. Soon, though, Vohs and her partner, Kelsey Nogel, will have to break a bit of that trust. The keepers have been training some of the cats to press a hip against the cage

at the keepers' requests.

The training will allow the keepers to give the animals an injection without having to involve the veterinarian, which can be more stressful to the animals. The training, which has been successful with the carnivores and other animals at the zoo, has been done with a stick.

"We'll be breaking some of that trust when we give (Charlie, a cougar) an injection," Vohs said. "The hope is that we have built up enough trust in the trust bank that it won't take long to get back to where we were."

As the keepers work to get the animals to trust them, they in return extend the same trust to the animals.

"It is definitely a relationship just like you would have with a person one that's built on honesty, trust and love," Covington said. "You have to listen to them. Everything depends on if we can understand their communication, more so, I think, than if they can understand ours."

Some of that communication is vocal. The chimpanzees, for example, have lots of vocalizations. Their keepers can recognize and even understand what some of them mean. They will do a Bronx cheer, also called a raspberry, as an attention-getter or a prelude to a display.

Often, a Bronx cheer

from Tohlo is followed by him "tearing across the room and throwing a barrel," Covington said.

"Chimpanzees have 32 different vocalizations just pertaining to food," Covington said. "So not only are they saying 'We are having fruit,' but they are saying 'We are having grapes.'"

The animals at the zoo, though, also communicate in ways that are less vocal and require more attention for the keepers to pick up on.

"Our jobs are to do things like make sure they have fresh food, fresh water and to clean their enclosures, whether that be sweeping or cleaning a lot of poop a lot," Zerbe said. "It also means getting to know your animals and their behaviors so you can recognize when something is a little off."

Zerbe said some of the things she watches for from the animals she tends to, which include everything from goats to reptiles to insects, is an animal that is spending time in places it doesn't normally do, wanting to spend more time indoors than normal and not wanting to get up at all. You can't get to know those things without becoming attached, she said.

"They do kind of become like your kids in a way," Zerbe said. "It's amazing how even a 450-pound Aldabra (a giant tortoise) can become your best friend and wants a massage when you come in," she said.

## CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

SATURDAY, JUNE 14 — 10:00 AM

At the stone 4-H building, fairgrounds  
WASHINGTON, KANSAS

**ANTIQUÉ FURNITURE & ANTIQUES:** Oak roll top desk, old; cedar gun cabinet; barn board stand; 3x6 office desk; oak library table; old wrought iron bed frame; Formica top gray kitchen table; chairs; walnut top sewing machine stand table; 5 legged oak dining table; dining chairs; padded rockers; waterfall buffet/China hutch; small pine chest; serpentine dresser; 3 and 5 drawer oak chests; flat top trunk; waterfall bed, chest and dresser; 30's chest; 30's spindle bed; wash tubs; sheet music; tins; cabinet sewing machine; old suitcases; LP's; other antiques.

**FURNITURE:** Craft-Matic full size electric adjustable bed, nearly new; 2 - electric lift chairs; oak entertainment center; light flowered sofas, love seat and sofa sleeper; mauve recliner; knee hole desk; 3x6 office desk; king size bed; other furniture.

**APPLIANCES:** Amana bottom freezer refrigerator, nearly new; Amana side by side refrigerator; small Amana chest freezer; Maytag washers and dryers; Hotpoint refrigerator; Tappan 30 in. cook stove; humidifier; fans; lamps; microwaves; Bernette sewing machine; Sanyo 25 in. TV; other appliances.

**HOUSEHOLD ITEMS:** Ping pong table; cookware; pots and pans; bakeware; utensils; kitchenware; yarn; sewing supplies; Haviland Bavaria China; coolers; dishes; glassware; canisters; other household items.

**YARD & GARDEN TOOLS:** Yard Machine 5 hp 22 in. mower; space heater; window ac's; steel shelving; step ladders; long handled and hand tools.

**Terms: cash, check or credit card. Announcements the day of the auction take precedence over printed advertising. Lunch.**

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## HEAVY EQUIPMENT AUCTION

SATURDAY, JUNE 14 — 10:00 AM

LOCATION: 810 North Washington, PLAINVILLE, KS

**SELLING**  
JD 644-C front end loader; 1988 Ford 9000 LTL dump truck with 16 yard box; 26' deck heavy duty 5th wheel Low Boy trailer; 1990 Kenworth tandem semi; 1976 Ford 9000 dump truck with 14 yard box; JD 710D 4x4 turbo backhoe, front end loader; 1986 Kenworth tandem semi; 27' deck Holden

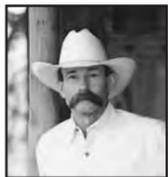
Low Boy trailer; Caterpillar D-5B bull dozer; 1990 Ford L-9000 single axle semi; 6510 Ditch Witch with attachments and trailer; 1989 Kenworth cab over for salvage only; 18' dove tail trailer; 1984 GMC 1 ton boom truck; 31'x7' rod/pip hauling trailer; a nice 1983 GMC diesel van; portable welder; compressor and shop tools.

See last week's Grass & Grain for complete listing.

Complete auction bill go to [www.wacondatrader.com](http://www.wacondatrader.com) Lunch stand.

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# BAXTER BLACK

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

## Natural Beef Redefined

Ah, what a tangled web we weave in our search for market niches. What has caught my eye is the USDA-AG Marketing Services' solicitation of comments regarding changing the requirements for livestock to be called "Naturally Raised."

I feel the need to explain that I am heartily in favor of grain growers, dairymen, polloqueros (chicken cowboys), and ranchers finding a niche market. One that has a perceived benefit to entice the consumer. For instance, "Florida Oranges," "Seedless Grapes," "Free Range Chicken," "Wild Salmon," or "Buffalo Shot in Yellowstone Park!"

"Organic" and "Natural" are two niches that have entered into the livestock meat market. The concept promoted is that animals that are as close to "untouched by human chemicals" as possible should be better for you. In my circle, I occasionally run into the "typical" organic/natural consumer. Affluent, sincere and not knowledgeable of anything about raising animals. The perfect customer!

But when I engage an

organic zealot, whose message is that organic/natural meat is better for you, I delve a little deeper. Are you aware of the beef tapeworm and trichinosis in pork? Does it matter that the animals you prefer could suffer from blowflies, cattle grubs, lice, lungworms, liver flukes, chronic enteritis, bronchitis, listeriosis and a myriad of other diseases that could easily have been treated? It is at that moment I realize they don't know and don't care! They have no way to connect real life with perception. Like I say ... the perfect customer.

The problem today is that cattlemen, regardless of whether they are raising 'natural' or mainstream cattle, are still cattlemen. They know the value of growth promotants, antibiotics, coccid stats, vaccines and deworming. Because of this, the erosion of the definition of 'natural' begins. The USDA has proposed loosening standards to permit certain of the aforementioned ailments to be treated or prevented. Which ones? Your choice. They have suggested a producer may choose to label

and market his cattle as:

- 1) Official USDA Certified Naturally Raised, or
- 2) Naturally raised by whatever definition you, the consumer, chooses (not certified), or
- 3) Natural Beef.

Well, I'm torn by which way to go. As a niche marketing enthusiast, I say keep your standards! Natural is not supposed to be for po' folks. It costs more to the consumer because we don't spend any money on the cattle health care to promote wellness and gain. But the veterinarian in me says even healthy-looking animals have parasites and old lung abscesses. Even if we can charge more, if we don't use modern veterinary practices, is it the right thing to do?

In conclusion, for the sake of the animals, I guess I'd let them treat and prevent disease and market them as "Virtually Natural All Beef Luxury Food."

## Service available for pork producers, others

Like livestock producers across the country, Kansas producers have been hit by soaring fuel, feed and other costs. But few have been affected more than the state's pork producers, who are losing money on every animal they sell.

Pork and beef producers — any agricultural producers struggling under the weight of record-high input costs, have resources available to help them make the best choices possible through the Kansas Agricultural Mediation Service, said KAMS mediation coordinator Char Henton.

Based at Kansas State University as part of K-State Research and Extension, KAMS works with farm and ranch families in a confidential manner to find information, to connect families with services and to help resolve disputes that arise with government agencies, banks, suppliers and others.

KAMS works with producers to help make them aware what their options are, said KAMS staff attorney Forrest Buhler. Two

components of the system are key features of KAMS' services — financial counseling through the Farm Analyst Program and legal counseling through Kansas Legal Services.

In many cases, Buhler said, KAMS services are free of charge. Even when there is a fee involved, it's much lower than the industry standard.

"Our industry is in somewhat of an unusual situation," said Tim Stroda, president and chief executive officer of the Kansas Pork Association. "For three to four years we had a record run of profitability. Then, in October last year, everything turned upside down."

Since then, Kansas producers have lost as much as \$60 to \$70 per head on hogs sold. The market situation eased this spring, helped by strong demand for pork from overseas buyers. But producers are still losing \$20 to \$25 per pig, he said.

That may be putting some of the 1,500 Kansas hog producers in an uncharac-

teristically tight financial bind, said Stroda, who is talking with bankers, government agencies and others to make them aware of the situation.

Kansas ranks No. 9 in total hog and pig inventory, producing about 2.8 percent of the nation's total, Stroda said. In 2007, Kansas producers sold 3.3 million market hogs, feeder pigs and seedstock with a gross market value of \$402 million.

To underscore the pork industry's importance to the state, Stroda said that Kansas pork operations consume more than 30 million bushels of grain annually. At today's prices, that means pork producers will spend more than \$165 million on grain sorghum and corn this year.

"Confidentiality is often a concern with people who are trying to work through problems," Henton said.

More information about KAMS is available by telephone at 1-800-321-3276 or at <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/kams/>.

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