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More than 300 horses provide power in old-fashioned Christmas parade

By Frank J. Buchman

Everybody loves a parade.
Everybody loves Christmas.

Everybody loves horses.
Everybody loves to dream about the good old days.

Consequently, more than 8,000 men, women and children of all ages were strung down Massachusetts Avenue, sometimes lined up a dozen deep, to watch the 16th annual Lawrence Old-Fashioned Christmas Parade.

"This is the biggest non-motorized Christmas parade in the Midwest," claimed Jana Dobbs, parade chairman. "We had 90 entries with more than 300 horses from five states participate this year."

Started 16 years ago by Rob Phillips, the spectacular event grew steadily and peaked at more than 100 entries a few years ago.

"When Mr. Phillips decided not to coordinate the parade any longer, Corner-Bank took over major sponsorship," related Dobbs, the bank's president. "We are a hometown Kansas bank which started at Winfield in 1872, so the parade fits our bank's image and philosophy just perfectly."

While the more than mile-long parade lasts about an hour, it's actually a year-long venture with coordination for next year's event starting soon after this one ended. "We have now formed the Lawrence Old-Fashioned Christmas Parade LLC, a limited liability company, to better structure the financial and working relationships within the parade," Dobbs clarified.

"It takes lots of cooperation from many people and groups to make it happen. We have more than 75 additional sponsors and literally dozens of volunteers who work with us on the parade," she continued.

From the first-time entry of a miniature Sicilian donkey, about two feet tall,



Highlight of the 16th annual Lawrence Old-Fashioned Christmas Parade was the arrival of Santa Claus in the one-horse open sleigh, set on wheels this time because there was no snow. Dunn's Landing, Wellsville, hooked their Belgian to the sleigh which was the climax of the parade that lasted about an hour.

pulling a small cart, to the 16th-time entry Percheron draft horses, more than six feet tall, towing a large freight wagon, there was just about every breed and color of horse imaginable in the lineup.

"We truly have horses of all shapes and sizes here," admitted Dobbs, who with Phil Bradley at one of three announcer's booths along the route, introduced entrants to the thousands of spectators.

Vehicles were as diverse as the horsepower. "Many of the rigs are restored antiques, and there are also reproductions of the originals," Dobbs explained.

"We had buckboards, carriages, sleighs, stagecoaches, surreys, an 1891 doctor's buggy, carts of all sizes, you name it. The Rowell family from Platte City, Mo., even pulled an 1888 hearse with

their Percheron team," she added.

While the entries are quite varied, not just anybody can participate, as a committee reviews applications to select qualified participants.

"Only holiday-decorated, high-wheel type, old-fashioned vehicles, and no balloon tires, are allowed, with a limited number of matching outriders for each entry," Dobbs related. "Riding groups with at least six riders are also selected based on their unique appeal."

Dispersed throughout the parade were red-shirted horseback riders, who kept the participants organized and progressing properly. "We certainly appreciate all of the help from these 'advance party outriders,' who arrive early and assist with the parade in many ways. Their extra work is an inte-



A big matching gray team of Percherons pulled a nicely restored 1885 hearse, complete with a 'body,' as the unique, attention-getting entry of David, Janis and Gus Rowell from Platte City, Mo., in the 16th annual Lawrence Old-Fashioned Christmas Parade. More than 8,000 men, women and children of all ages, sometimes standing a dozen deep, lined Massachusetts Avenue for the mile-long parade.

gral part of the parade's success," Dobbs complimented.

Among the riding groups this year were the Victorian Ladies Club from Oskaloosa, the Shawnee County Sheriff's Posse from

Topeka, the Wild Women of the Frontier from Lawrence and the Saddle & Sirloin Club from Kansas City. "All horses in the parade were either pulling a vehicle or being ridden," Dobbs noted.

The Commanding General's Color Guard from Fort Riley again led the parade, with the Nicodemus Buffalo Soldiers, a re-enactment of the 1876 10th Cavalry Company F Troop, following second in the lineup.

This year's entries came from Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Kansas. The parade itself now covers a five-mile route from the Douglas County Fairgrounds to Seventh Street down Lawrence's main thoroughfare, Massachusetts Avenue, and returns to the starting point.

Many of the participants arrived on Friday evening and were treated to a barbecue supper and an overnight stay in Lawrence. "We also provide stalls for horses and a morning breakfast prior to starting," Dobbs said.

One vehicle breakdown this year made the event last a bit longer. "We had to call in emergency help, so the other horses couldn't proceed until the route was cleared," Dobbs commented. "Fortunately, no participants were severely injured in the mishap."

Scott Zaremba has abundant enthusiasm for the parade. "I think it's a good thing for the community," credited Zaremba, president of the Lawrence-based Zarco 66 chain, a parade sponsor. "We are delighted to help support the parade. It's a chance to step into the past when Lawrence was born. It's a great attraction, and my family is always there."

Interestingly, Zaremba's father, Stan, participated in the parade carrying the U.S. flag on his horse with the Saddle & Sirloin Club.

Jane Pennington, director of Downtown Lawrence Inc., is also a member of the

Continued on page 3



Leslie and Judith Owen drove their Miniatures, Chubby Sam and Pippin, pulling wooden show and pleasure carts in the Lawrence Old-Fashioned Christmas Parade. This is the fourth year they've been in the parade.



The sound of hooves on the pavement accented by the jingle of harness bells added to the festive atmosphere along the parade route.



Over the Barn Gate

By Beth Gaines-Riffel

Education is important. I know that I've jumped on this soap box before and will probably continue to do so until I can no longer be counted amongst the living. Simply put, unless you're pushin' daisies, you'd best be continuing your education — even if it is only in the school of hard knocks.

I was at the profit conference in Wichita last week and I was impressed by the number of people who had made it a priority to attend — even if they did have to brave some pretty nasty weather to get there.

From making farms more profitable in the near term to looking to the next generation and how the transition will be made are

areas that I would wager each and every farm needs improvement in.

But the thing that probably stuck in my mind at the end of the day was said by a fellow news media colleague. And it really doesn't have to do with the education of producers for profitability but rather the schooling of non-farmer types — better known as the consuming public or owners of ranchettes.

Farmers and stockmen are known to stockpile hay at the edges of fields for later retrieval or for convenience to winter feeding areas. Everyone knows that, right? Well, it was to my surprise that I discovered not everyone does.

This piece of information was shared fairly inno-

cently — it was in relation to a horse sanctuary owner who was struggling to feed the horses in her care — who mentioned that the extra hay bales going to waste at the edges of fields could be donated and a tax deduction received.

I asked for a clarification. "You know, those bales you see along the roadside?" was the response.

I could hardly believe my ears. I explained some of the variety of reasons that hay might be "stockpiled" or left at the field edges, including a risk management strategy for the prevention of the loss of an entire year's worth of feed from a lightning strike if all the hay was stored in a single location — to the obvious lack of space that many ranchers face at the headquarters making it physically impossible to relocate all the bales.

"Those aren't wasted bales" was my final reply to this individual. "Just haven't been used yet. And what's more, they might not be used in a single year, when the summer growing season has been productive, but as a carry-over for the next year if the summer is dry and hay production is reduced."

It didn't take long to provide a little education. And yes, I probably could have politely nodded my head and said something nice like, "I'd never really thought about that."

But instead I chose to educate.

As the next government administration begins to take shape — and we still wait for news on the next secretary of agriculture — there will be plenty of opportunities to educate a new round of staff members to the subtle intricacies of agriculture. I'll hope you'll step up to the plate and share some of that knowledge you've gleaned over the years.

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

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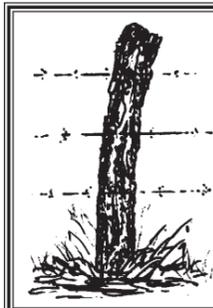
By Ace Reid



"No sir, we ain't had no riots here this summer, but we came mighty close the other day when my \$125 crossbred bull got in with my neighbor's \$1,000 registered herd."

"Do all the good you can, and make as little fuss about it as possible."

-- Charles Dickens



The Learning Post

By Gordon Morrison
Concordia Rancher and
Former Agriculture Educator

Invest In Our Youth

I participated in some interesting sessions when I attended the annual state conference of the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts in Wichita several days ago. I sat in on meetings of four major committees. One in particular dealt with a topic of concern to me, and this is the one I want to talk about.

The Wildlife, Forestry, and Recreation committee discussed the welfare of the youth of America. Through surveys, inventories, and an analysis program, it was determined that American youth are becoming extremely sedentary, to the point that 25% of the children in the country under 13 years of age are obese, and diabetes is greatly on the increase. Children are spending less than half the amount of time outdoors as their parents did. Only six percent of children ages 9 to 13 play outside on their own. Bicycle riding is down 31 percent from what it was in 1995. One can easily surmise where this extra time is spent.

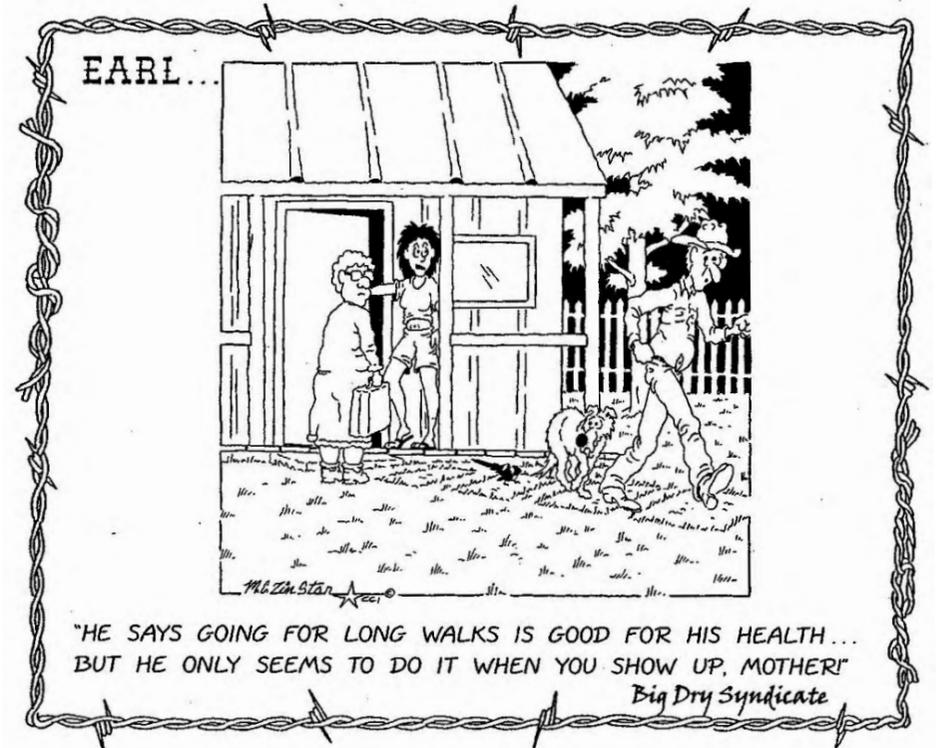
The Kansas Forest Service through the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks is desirous of establishing and promoting recreation areas throughout the state that will encourage Kansans, especially the youth, to get out into nature and enjoy activities such as fishing, camping, hiking, bird watching, archery, hunting, shooting sports, and sailing. The purpose of this association is to provide an environment that will enhance these activities; and now their thrust is to encourage mentors who will teach our youth how to appreciate and enjoy outdoor activities.

Such organizations such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters are an excellent means for acquainting youth with and teaching them to appreciate the outdoors and nature. Somehow and in some way, we need to entice them away from TV screens, video games, computers, and junk foods in order for them to develop strong, healthy bodies, good atti-

tudes, and an enjoyment of outdoor exercise and nature. It seems that parents, often single parents, are needing help and encouragement to get the children out of the house and into the outdoors, where they can delight in and value the great adventures awaiting them in the outdoors. The life expectancy for the average American is now getting close to 80 years of age; but I have heard predictions that this number may be going down for the next generation. Poor diets, inadequate exercise, and mental depression can make the outlook for the future of our youth look bleak indeed.

I find it alarming to hear that our government is likely going to bail out financially troubled industries such as auto plants, banks, and insurance companies to the tune of perhaps a trillion dollars. Are we going to pass on to our youth such a huge financial debt load when we have not prepared them for such an enormous responsibility? Our government seems willing to invest a lot of time on Capitol Hill and huge sums of money in greedy and ineptly run corporations but, in comparison, very little in our youth to prepare them for the awesome task of assuming the responsibility of running the country and preserving our good way of life.

I believe the Wildlife, Forestry, and Recreation committee has the vision and the right concept of what is important and vital to our continued existence as we know it today. It is important that we as parents, teachers, neighbors, churches, scouting clubs, and conservation organizations such as Ducks and Quail Unlimited groups, Pheasants Forever, and the Turkey Federation invest in our youth. We can help by being mentors, not just to our own families but to neighbors as well. The return will be great. The Kansas Forest Service has prepared places for all our citizens to enjoy nature. Let's use them.



Happy Holidays from the Staff at Grass & Grain!

Advertising deadline for the Dec. 30 edition is 10 a.m., Wed. Dec. 24.

Our offices will be closed Dec. 25-27 for Christmas.

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Horses, ponies of every size and color make parade spectacular

Continued from page 1

Wild Women of the Frontier, which had 16 members dressed for the occasion as famous women in Western history. "It's a very friendly parade for our horses. We don't have to deal with cars, trucks and things like that," Pennington remarked.

This was the 14th year Robin Dunn of Dunn's Landing at Wellsville has participated in the parade. She drove her Percheron team, Bill and Buck, pulling a stagecoach as the next-to-last entry in the parade, while one of her Belgians pulled a white sleigh carrying Santa Claus, as the highlight of the parade.

"We have especially equipped the sleigh with small wheels, so the runners were off the ground, in case it didn't snow, which it didn't this year," Dunn pointed out.

A winter storm last year created some reduction in participation and fewer spectators, but the parade went on. "This year's weather was just perfect, with sunshine, even though the temperature was a little cool," Dunn declared.

In their ninth year of participation, Darel and Sheila Sommerfeld of Tecumseh drove a draft team pulling a covered wagon with youngsters Harley and Zoe Klass riding inside and smiling parade participants.

Jane Pahl's drove her Percheron Captain, pulling a surrey with her husband Galen and sister Eileen Shelton as passengers, in the parade for the first time this year. "I got this rig for my birthday," Pahl's grinned. "We live at Jewell, which is about 200 miles west. We're having a great time."

Harold Jensen of the Fla-

trick Ranch at Bucyrus had two rigs, a box wagon and a white vis-à-vis carriage, pulled by his draft horses in the parade. Admitting he does a "little farm work with his teams," Jensen insisted, "Even when it is work, it's play."

Marvin and Myrtle Jones of Double MJ Farm at Tonganoxie were in the parade for the fifth year with their draft team decked out in a silver-studded parade harness pulling a shiny reproduction high-wheel freight wagon. "We go to parades all over, and this is one of the best," Jones credited.

At the opposite realm in stature, Leslie and Judith Owen drove their Miniatures Chubby Sam and Pippin pulling wooden show and pleasure carts. "This is the fourth year we've been in this parade," Leslie Owen shared. "We like to do this, but we also enter competi-

tive driving events as members of the Kansas City Driving Club."

Kay Wolfe of Lawrence had a two-wheel red road cart all decked out in artificial poinsettias for her gray 10-year-old half-Arabian, half-Irish Pony, Mary Rose, to pull in the parade for the ninth year. "This is a new reproduction," Wolfe described her vehicle.

Although Roger and Jackie McCormick of St. George have several dun Shetland teams, this time they used a sorrel, 48-inch Welsh pony called Duke to pull their stylish white vis-à-vis carriage. "This is the 13th year we've been in the parade. We really enjoy it," McCormick relayed.

Third entry in the parade lineup was a Percheron team, Lena and Belle, driven by Chuck Streit of Dubois, Neb., who had Connie Werner of Werner Wagon

Works at Horton seated beside him on the covered wagon provided by Werner.

"I've participated in the parade since the beginning," Werner informed. A saddled riderless gray horse followed the wagon in memory of Streit's wife who passed away earlier this year. Inside

the wagon were a half-dozen family members.

Also noteworthy, a wagon built by Don Werner, Connie's husband, of Werner Wagon Works, has been selected to be in the Presidential Inaugural Parade in Washington, D.C., next month.



Kay Wolfe has been in the Lawrence Old-Fashioned Christmas parade for nine years. She had her two-wheel cart decorated with poinsettias for her gray horse Mary Rose to pull down Massachusetts Avenue.



Roger and Jackie McCormick of St. George used their sorrel, 48-inch pony called Duke to pull a stylish white vis-à-vis carriage in the Lawrence Old-Fashioned Christmas Parade. It's the 13th year the couple has had a horse-drawn vehicle in the event.

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Auction Location: Wakefield United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall,
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DESCRIPTION:

TRACT 1: The South 102 acres of the SW/4 of 17-10-3, Clay County, Kansas (3 miles South of K-15 and K-82 Junction). 88.6 acres of cropland, balance brome grass and waterways. Most cropland is crete soil, Class IV upland with 3-7 percent slope, all terraced with established waterways. 47.1 acres wheat base, 16.6 acres grain sorghum base and 8.1 acres soybean base. Immediate possession upon closing. Farm has no wheat planted, whole farm is available for 2009 spring crop.

TRACT 2: E/2 NE/4 of 21-9-4 Clay County, Kansas, North of County road (10th Road), approximately 54.89 acres (3.5 miles South of Countryside Church on Valleyview Road). All grass, 2 ponds, on blacktop road. Would make a great building site with excellent view of Milford Wetlands.

TRACT 3: E/2 NE/4 of 21-9-4 Clay County, Kansas, South of County road (10th Road), approximately 18.98 acres (4 miles South of Countryside Church on Valleyview Road across road from Tract 2). Some grass and oak trees in ravine. Nice location on knoll to build home with trees all around. Your own natural windbreak.

TRACT 4: Lot 7 and the North 2 1/2 feet of Lot 8 in Block 46 of Wakefield, Clay County, Kansas, commonly known as **305 5th Street**. 1 1/2 story home with 1 bedroom on the main floor and two bedrooms upstairs. 1 bath, kitchen, living room and family room. Partial basement. Gravity flow furnace.

TRACT 5: The East 66 Feet of Lot 3 and the East 66 Feet of the North 10 Feet of Lot 2, in Block 24

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TERMS: 10% down day of auction, balance due in 30 days or upon delivery of merchantable title. Title insurance and escrow fees to be paid 1/2 each by seller and buyer. Seller to pay all 2008 taxes and buyer to pay all 2009 taxes. Buyer will receive all mineral rights. Contract, deed and down payment to be escrowed at Central Plains Title LLC, 707 5th Street, Clay Center, Kansas. Property selling subject to easements, restrictions and reservations of record. All information given is from sources deemed reliable, but not guaranteed.

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: For aerial or soil maps on the land or for an appointment to view the houses contact Auctioneer, Harold Mugler at 785-632-4994 or Heartland Real Estate Co. at 785-632-5551.

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2008 Grass & Grain Holiday Recipe Contest



Janet Jehle, Baldwin City, Wins Holiday Recipe Contest & Prize

Winner Janet Jehle, Baldwin City: "Looking for recipes to use the leftover turkey from the holidays? This is quick and easy and the browned biscuits on top 'make' the dish. Serve a salad and you have a complete meal."

CREAMED TURKEY & BISCUITS

- 1/2 large onion
- 1 1/2 teaspoons butter
- 4 cups chopped cooked turkey (or chicken)
- 10 3/4-ounce can cream of chicken soup
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup milk
- 4 ounces chopped pimiento, drained
- 1 cup shredded mild cheddar cheese, divided
- 6 refrigerated biscuits

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease the bottom and sides of an 11-by-17-inch baking dish. Chop the onion. Heat butter in a small nonstick skillet over medium high heat until melted then stir in onion. Sauté until tender. Combine onion, turkey, soup, sour cream, milk and pimiento in a medium bowl and mix well. Spoon mixture into prepared baking dish and bake for 15 minutes. Remove from oven and sprinkle baked layer with 3/4 cup cheddar cheese. Arrange biscuits in a single layer over top and sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake until biscuits are golden brown and the sauce is bubbly, about 20 minutes longer. Serve immediately.

Mariana Kemper, Logan: "A different breakfast casserole that I enjoy for family or guests. It's wonderful served with fruit on Christmas morning."

HOLIDAY MORNING

FRENCH TOAST

- 1 cup brown sugar (I substitute 1/2 cup Splenda brown sugar)
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine, melted
- 3 teaspoons ground cinnamon, divided
- 3 tart apples (such as Granny Smith), peeled, cored & thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries or raisins
- 1 loaf Italian or French bread, cut into 1" slices
- 6 large eggs

- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1 tablespoon vanilla

Combine brown sugar, butter and 1 teaspoon cinnamon in a mixing bowl. Add apple slices and cranberries and toss to coat well. Spread apple mixture evenly over the bottom of a 9-by-13-inch baking dish. Arrange slices of bread on top of apples. Mix eggs, milk, vanilla and remaining cinnamon until well blended. Pour mixture over bread, soaking bread completely. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Bake, covered with aluminum foil, for 40 minutes. Uncover and bake 5 minutes more or until cooked in the center. Remove from oven and let set 5 min-

utes. Cut in squares and serve warm with syrup.

Ruby Hesting, Esbon: "Here is a very good soup that works well for a nighttime Christmas meal. I use it every year. It freezes well."

FRENCH MARKET SOUP

- 1 pkg. of 16 bean soup mix
- Rinse the beans off and put to cook with 3 quarts of water, ham hocks or pieces of ham, 2 bay leaves and a pinch of thyme. Simmer 3 hours then add:
- 1 quart tomatoes
- 6 stalks celery, chopped
- 2 onions, chopped
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- 2 whole cloves
- 2 garlic cloves, chopped
- Salt & pepper to taste

Add:

- 1 smoked sausage (thick slices)
- Several pieces of chicken
- Simmer until chicken is cooked. Remove and de-bone chicken and tear in pieces and return to soup.

Mary Bairow, Westmoreland: **GOOD CRANBERRY SALAD**

- 1 package cranberries
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 can crushed pineapple, unsweetened
- 2 cups seedless grapes, cut up
- 1 carton frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 2 large bananas, cut up
- Grind cranberries and mix sugar in. Let set overnight. Next morning, add whipped topping, grapes and pineapple. Let set until time to serve then add bananas. Can add nuts if you like.

Ida Eater, Raymond: "It's beautiful when cut and the slices fanned out on a pretty serving plate. It bakes up beautifully!"

PUMPKIN RIBBON BREAD

- Filling:
- (2) 3-ounce packages cream cheese, softened

- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- 1 egg
- 2 teaspoons grated orange peel
- Bread:
- 1 cup cooked or canned pumpkin
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 2/3 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon cloves
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 cup chopped pecans

Beat cream cheese, sugar and flour in a small bowl. Add egg and orange peel and set aside. In a large bowl combine pumpkin, oil and eggs. Add sugar, flour, soda, salt, cloves, cinnamon and pecans; mix well and pour 1/2 of mixture into 2 greased and floured 7 1/2-by-3 1/2-inch pans. Carefully spread filling over batter and top filling with remaining bread batter. Bake at 325 degrees for 1 1/2 hours or until it tests done. Cool 10 minutes before removing from pans. Cool and store in the refrigerator.

Beth Scripser, Abilene: "This is a fun recipe to try with kids."

ROUND PRETZELS

- Round pretzels
- Candy kisses
- M&M's

Place a piece of parchment paper on a cookie sheet. Place the round pretzels on it. Unwrap candy kisses (the candy cane ones look the prettiest). Put one inside each pretzel. Put them in the oven at 150 to 200 degrees for just a minute or two. They will not look like they have melted, just softened. Quickly place an M&M on top of the kiss and press down gently. Put the entire cookie sheet in the freezer for a little while so the candy will harden. Then these can go on your cookie plates and be quite a conversation piece.

NOTE: Good luck finding round pretzels!

Marjure Coordsen, Hebron, Neb.:

TURKEY SAVING TIME

Thaw a large turkey and bake until nice and tender. Cool and slice into two 9-by-13-inch pans. Remove drippings from roaster and add enough chicken broth or water to cover turkey meat. Cover with foil and freeze until needed. Thaw in heated oven. Use broth for gravy and/or dressing.

Joyce Maginness, Fostoria: "Great holiday bread besides the usual fruit breads. This recipe is from a 1934 recipe booklet, 'Clabber Girl Baking Book.'"

PEANUT BUTTER BREAD

- 2 cups sifted flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 cup milk
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup peanut butter

Sift dry ingredients together. Beat milk, eggs and peanut butter together then add gradually to dry ingredients while beating with a spoon. Pour into greased and floured loaf pan, about 8 1/2-by-4 1/2-by-2 1/2-inch in size. Bake one hour at 350 degrees.

Mildred Goehring, Manhattan: "A very good cranberry salad. Goes well with Christmas turkey."

CRANBERRY SALAD

- 1 lb. ground cranberries (I freeze mine & grind while frozen, no juice that way)
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 pound seedless grapes, cut into halves
- 1 cup nuts
- 2 cups miniature marshmallows
- 1 pint whipped topping

Mix cranberries and sugar and let stand overnight. Add grapes, nuts and marshmallows and stir well. Mix in whipped topping. Let stand in refrigerator a few hours before serving.



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2008 Grass & Grain Holiday Recipe Contest

Marla Gillmore, Moundridge: "This is a Swiss Mennonite bread that was served at weddings in the early 1900s. Our family continues to make these. I serve them on Christmas morning."

KAVEREI

- 1 cup cream
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup butter
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup flour
- 1 1/2 tablespoons yeast
- Flour

Mix 1 cup cream, 3/4 cup sugar, butter and salt; bring to a boil. Remove from the stove and cool. Beat eggs and add remaining 1/4 cup sugar to eggs; let stand. Make a sponge of 1 cup flour, yeast (which has been soaked in 1/4 cup lukewarm water) to make a fairly thick batter. Let sponge rise until the cream mixture is cooled to lukewarm then add cream mixture and egg mixture to sponge; stir. Add enough flour to make a soft dough. Knead dough twice at 25-minute intervals. Let rise in warm place for about 3 hours. Put in pie pans. Spread all over pans and let raise until double in size or 3 more hours. Bake in a 350-degree oven for 20 minutes or until brown. Makes 4-5 cakes.

Frosting:

- 1 cup cream
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Cook sugar and cream until mixture coats the spoons well, at least 10 minutes. Remove from heat and beat until cool enough to spread. Add vanilla and spread. Traditionally corn candy is used to decorate the bread. Colored sugar or sprinkles can also be used.

Doris Shivers, Abilene: "Have the gang over for TV football and watch these turnovers disappear."

CURRIED CHICKEN

TURNOVERS

- 1/2 cup finely chopped celery
- 1/4 cup finely chopped onion
- 1/4 cup finely chopped carrot

- 2 teaspoons butter
- 1 teaspoon all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons curry powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup chicken broth
- 1 1/2 cups diced cooked chicken
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1/4 cup plain yogurt
- 17.3-ounce package frozen puff pastry, thawed
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 teaspoon water

In a large skillet saute the celery, onion and carrot in butter for 4 to 6 minutes or until tender. Stir in the flour, curry powder and salt until blended. Add broth. Bring to a boil, cook and stir for 1 minute or until thickened. Remove from the heat. Stir in the chicken, sour cream and yogurt. On a lightly floured surface, roll each pastry sheet into a 12-by-10-inch rectangle. With a floured 3-inch round cookie cutter, cut 12 circles from each rectangle. Place 2 teaspoons chicken mixture on one side of each circle. Moisten edges with water; fold dough over filling. Press edges with a fork to seal. Place 1 inch apart on a greased baking sheet. In a small bowl beat egg yolks and water; brush over pastry. Bake at 400 degrees for 17 to 20 minutes or until golden brown. Yield: 2 dozen.

Debbie Ervin, Eureka: CHOCOLATE COVERED CHERRY COOKIES

- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1/2 cup cocoa
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon soda
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1/2 cup soft butter (1 stick)
- 10-oz. jar maraschino cherries

Frosting:

- 6-oz. package chocolate chips
 - 1/2 cup sweetened condensed milk
 - 4 teaspoons cherry juice
- Mix flour, cocoa, salt, baking powder and soda; set aside. Cream sugar and but-

ter; add eggs and vanilla. Add dry ingredients and mix well. Shape dough into 1-inch balls. Press thumb in center of cookie ball. Place maraschino cherry in center. Heat chocolate chips, sweetened condensed milk and cherry juice. Frost top of cherry with approximately 1 teaspoon of frosting. Cover cherry well, frosting to edge of cookie ball. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes.

Bernice Miller, Bonner Springs:

EASY DIVINITY

- 2 cups sugar
 - 2/3 cup white corn syrup
 - 1/2 cup water
 - 2 egg whites
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla
 - 1 cup nuts (black walnuts or pecans)
 - 1/2 cup chopped maraschino cherries (for pretty color)
- Stir sugar, syrup and water over low heat until sugar dissolves. Boil to light crack stage and slowly pour over egg whites. Beat candy until cool and holds shape. Add vanilla, nuts and cherries and blend. Drop tablespoon-size balls onto waxed paper or put in pan and cut in squares when cooled.

Linda Falk, Wheaton:

DUTCH BABIES

- 1 stick margarine
 - 1 cup milk
 - 1 cup flour
 - Pinch of salt
 - 1 tablespoon sugar
 - 4 large eggs
- Place 1 tablespoon margarine in each bowl of muf-

fin tin. Melt in oven. Mix milk, flour, salt and sugar. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each with wire whip. Add batter to muffin pan, filling about half full. Put muffin pan on cookie sheet and bake at 425 degrees for 20 to 30 minutes. Dutch Babies puff up, then fall. Serve with lemon juice and powdered sugar or honey or jam.

Mary Longren, Holton: "This is the best fudge I have ever tasted. The recipe was given to me by my daughter 10 years ago. The fudge makes a nice gift for any chocolate lover."

MACKINAC ISLAND FUDGE

- 4 cups sugar
 - 12-oz. can evaporated milk
 - 1 stick butter
 - (2) 7-oz. Hershey chocolate bars
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla
 - (2) 12-ounce packages semi-sweet chocolate chips
 - 1 small jar marshmallow creme
- Combine sugar, evaporated milk and butter in a heavy saucepan and bring to a boil. Boil gently for 6 minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and add chocolate bars, vanilla, semisweet chocolate chips and marsh-

mallow creme; blend completely. Pour mixture into a well-greased jellyroll pan and allow to cool.

Lynn Burgess, Lyons: PINEAPPLE NUT COOKIES

- 1 cup shortening
 - 1 cup white sugar
 - 1 cup brown sugar
 - 2 eggs, well beaten
 - 1 cup crushed pineapple, drained
 - 1 teaspoon lemon or orange extract
 - 1 cup nutmeats
 - 1 teaspoon soda
 - 4 cups flour
- Cream the shortening,

two sugars and flavoring until light and fluffy. Add the eggs and beat. Sift together the flour, soda and salt. Add to the first mixture. Stir in nuts and pineapple and mix thoroughly. Drop from teaspoonfuls onto lightly greased cookie sheet. Bake in moderately hot oven (350 degrees) for 10 to 12 minutes.

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G&G Announces Its Annual Holiday Recipe Contest

Nov. 25 through Dec. 23

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

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The winner each week is selected from the recipes printed.

Send us your favorite recipe. It may be a main dish, leftover, salad, side dish, dessert, or what-have-you.

1. Check your recipe carefully to make certain all ingredients are accurate and instructions are clear.

2. Be sure your name, address and phone number are on the entry. Please include a street address with your recipe entries. A post office box number is not sufficient for prize delivery. Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.

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2008 Grass & Grain Holiday Recipe Contest

Kellee Rogers, Topeka:
COCONUT SNOWBALLS
 1 cup sweetened flake coconut
 1 cup flour
 1 1/4 cups powdered sugar
 Pinch of salt
 6 tablespoons unsalted butter
 1 teaspoon vanilla
 4 teaspoons milk

Grind 1/2 cup of the coconut in a processor. Chop remaining coconut and set aside. Add flour, 1/4 cup powdered sugar and the salt. Pulse to blend. Add butter and vanilla and pulse until dough comes together. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Roll dough into 1 inch balls. Place dough balls 1 inch apart on an ungreased baking sheet. Bake cookies until firm but tender, about 15 minutes. Remove to rack and let cool completely. In a bowl stir remaining 1 cup powdered sugar and enough milk to make smooth but still thick. Dip cookies in glaze, letting it drip down sides. Dip in chopped coconut and set aside for glaze to dry.

Joann Bollier, Minneapolis: "These are great for an informal holiday party."

SWEET & SOUR CHICKEN WINGS

1 egg
 1 teaspoon water
 1 teaspoon oil
 Chicken wings
 Cornstarch
 Clove of garlic
 Sweet & Sour Sauce:
 1/2 cup ketchup
 1 tablespoon soy sauce
 3/4 cup sugar
 1/2 cup vinegar

Take tips off wings. Cut wings in two. Dip pieces in

egg, water and oil mixture. Then dip wings in cornstarch. Brown in oil with the garlic. Place in casserole dish. Pour sweet and sour sauce over wings and bake at 325 degrees for 30-45 minutes.

Katie Gillmore, Moundridge:

RANCH BREAD

2/3 cup warm milk
 1/4 cup warm water
 2 1/4 teaspoons dry yeast
 1/2 cup ranch dip (made from dry ranch mix & sour cream)
 2 tablespoons butter
 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
 1 1/2 teaspoons sugar
 1/8 teaspoon baking powder
 3 cups flour, approximately

Combine water and milk. Dissolve yeast in solution. Mix in all ingredients except the flour. Stir in enough flour to form a stiff dough. Cover and let rise until double in size. Punch down and let rise again. Form dough into a loaf and place into a greased loaf pan. Brush with an egg wash or milk, if desired. Allow to rise again. Bake at 375 degrees until golden brown. Allow to cool slightly then remove from pan.

Marcia Emig, Goodland:

"This was my mom's recipe and dates back to the '50s."

CRANBERRY SALAD

2 cups or 1 pound cranberries, ground fine (I freeze the cranberries then remove them from the freezer and grind them)

1 cup sugar
 1 pint whipping cream
 3/4 lb. mini marshmallows
 1 cup drained crushed pineapple

Combine cranberries and sugar. Let stand for 2 hours. Whip cream and add marshmallows. Let stand for 2 hours. Combine the whipping cream mix with the cranberry mix and add the pineapple. Add 1 cup chopped pecans, if desired. Pour into bowl or mold. Let stand several hours or overnight in refrigerator. Makes a very large salad and keeps for several days.

Lucille Wohler, Clay Center: "A good way to use the good apples produced this fall."

APPLE CRISP

1/4 cup brown sugar
 4 to 8 apples, sliced & peeled
 1 cup flour
 3/4 cup white sugar
 1 teaspoon baking powder
 3/4 teaspoon salt
 1 egg

1/2 cup melted butter
 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon

Sprinkle brown sugar in a greased 8-by-8-inch baking dish. Place apple slices on top. Mix flour, sugar, baking powder, salt and egg together until crumbly and sprinkle over apples. Pour melted butter over all. Sprinkle cinnamon over top and bake 30 to 40 minutes at 350 degrees.

Barbara Vail, Topeka: This recipe is so good, I said it was almost sinful."

BROWNIE CUPCAKES

2/3 cup chocolate chips
 1 cup pecans
 1 cup flour
 1 teaspoon vanilla
 2 sticks oleo
 1 3/4 cups sugar
 4 eggs

Melt chips and oleo over low heat; add pecans. Mix flour and sugar in large bowl. Add eggs, one at a time, mixing (not beating).

Add vanilla. Stir in chocolate mixture. Fill cupcake foil liners three-fourths full and bake at 325 degrees for 35 minutes.

Margaret Trojan, Beaver Crossing, Neb.:

HOLIDAY VEGETABLE CASSEROLE

1 can cut green beans, drained
 1 can whole kernel corn, drained
 1 can cream of mushroom soup
 1/2 cup sour cream
 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese
 1/2 cup chopped onion
 1/4 cup margarine, melted
 3/4 cup saltine cracker crumbs
 1/4 cup sliced almonds, toasted

Combine beans, corn, soup, sour cream, cheese and onions. Pour into 2-quart baking dish. Mix margarine,

crumbs and almonds. Sprinkle over vegetables. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 35 to 40 minutes or until bubbly. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

NOTE: Lima beans are a good substitute for the green beans.

Kristie Dressman, Frankfurt:

CHOCOLATE ANGEL CHERRY BARS

1 package of one-step angel food cake mix
 2 tablespoons unsweetened baking cocoa
 22-oz. can cherry pie filling
 Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine cocoa with the dry cake mix. Add pie filling and mix well. Pour batter into an ungreased 10-by-15-inch jelly roll pan. Bake 20 to 25 minutes. Cool and cut into 24 bars. Cover loosely with waxed paper for storage.

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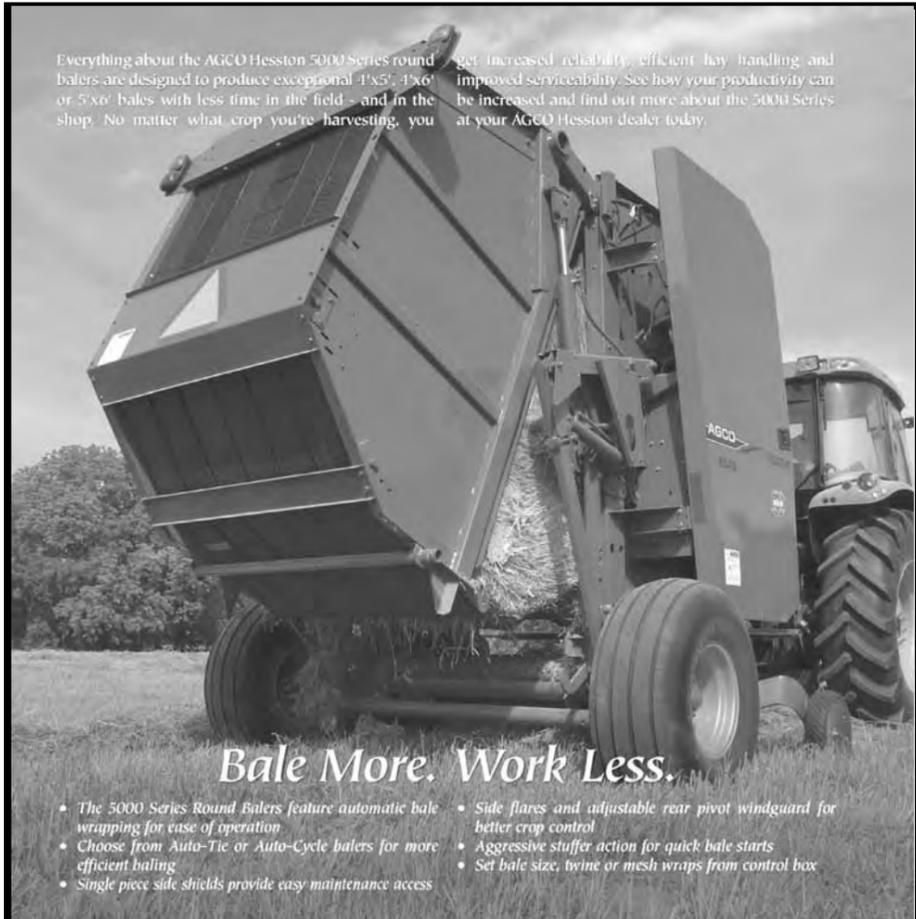
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2008 Grass & Grain Holiday Recipe Contest

Marlene Swisher, Reading: "This is a little bit different than the traditional green bean casserole."

CHEESY GREEN BEAN CASSEROLE

16-ounce package frozen French-style green beans (I use canned green beans)
2 cups diced cooked ham
2 cans cream of celery soup
1/2 cup mayonnaise or salad dressing
2 teaspoons dijon mustard
2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
1/2 cup dry bread crumbs
2 tablespoons butter, melted
In an ungreased 9-by-13-by-2-inch casserole dish layer the green beans and ham. Combine the soup, mayonnaise and the mustard and pour over ham. Sprinkle with cheeses. Toss bread crumbs and butter and sprinkle on top. Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes until heated through.

Noel Miller, Maple Hill: "Here's a quick and nice snack to have around or give as a gift for the holiday."

HOLIDAY SPICED NUTS

1 egg white
1 teaspoon water
8-oz. jar dry-roasted peanuts
1/2 cup whole almonds

1/2 cup pecan or walnut halves
3/4 cup sugar
1 tablespoon pumpkin pie spice
3/4 teaspoon salt

Beat together the egg white and water in a large bowl. Add nuts; stir to coat. Combine remaining ingredients in a separate bowl. Mix well; add to nut mixture, tossing until well coated. Stir until moistened. Spread nut mixture onto a lightly greased 15-by-10-inch jelly roll pan. Bake at 300 degrees for 25 minutes. Immediately remove nuts onto lightly greased waxed paper, spreading into a single layer to dry. Cool completely and break into small pieces if they become stuck together. Makes about 4 cups.

Julia Bergman, Seneca: "This recipe was handed down to me from my mother-in-law. She got it from her mother-in-law. It is a family favorite at the holidays."

DRESSING
1 chicken, cooked & cut in small pieces
1 loaf of bread, cut up & dried (you can buy it in a bag already cut & dried)
1 quart chicken broth (buy it in a can or use chicken bouillon cubes)
1 cup celery, diced
3 small apples, peeled & diced

1 cup raisins
1/4 cup diced onions
2 tablespoons butter
3/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper
Milk

Cook chicken in crock-pot and cut up ahead of time. Cook celery and onion in butter until tender. Mix all ingredients together. Add enough milk to make a wet mixture. Bake in shallow 9-by-13-inch shallow pan, uncovered at 325 degrees for 1 1/2 to 2 hours.

Kay Spoo, Frankfort: "Personally, I would have never put these two (cranberries and pecans) together. But it is very good and festive for the holiday season."

CRANBERRY-PECAN PIE
3 eggs
1 cup corn syrup
3/4 cup sugar
4 tablespoons butter, melted
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 cups fresh whole cranberries

1 cup pecans, chopped or halves
Single crust pie shell (9- or 10-inch)

Mix together first five ingredients. Add cranberries and pecans. Pour into unbaked pie shell. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 50 to 55 minutes or until set.

Cecilia Holle, Marysville: BANANA CHOCOLATE CHIP MUFFINS

1 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup oleo, melted
2 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 bananas, mashed
2 1/4 cups flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup chocolate chips
1/2 cup nuts, optional

Mix sugar, oleo, eggs, vanilla and mashed bananas. Sift in dry ingredients. Mix then add chocolate chips and nuts, if desired. Spoon into muffin cups and bake at

350 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes.

Sandy Hill, Eskridge: GRANDMA'S ROLLS

1 cup milk
1 envelope active dry yeast
1/4 cup sugar
3 tablespoons shortening
1 teaspoon salt
1 egg, beaten
3 1/2 cups flour

Heat milk just to boiling; remove from heat. Pour milk over yeast, sugar, shortening and salt in a large bowl. Add egg and mix well. Gradually stir in flour. Place dough in a second greased bowl and let rise for 1 hour; punch down. Form into walnut-size balls or smaller and place 3 balls in each greased muffin cup. Cover and let rise until double in size, about 2 hours. Bake at 425 degrees for 6 minutes or until golden. Makes 2 dozen.

Free Online Recipe

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 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
CRANBERRY PINEAPPLE MINIS
from
Millie Conger, Tecumseh

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LAND AUCTION
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19 — 10:00 AM
Linn Community Building, 104 5th St.
LINN, KANSAS
LEGAL: NW 1/4 Section 4, T04 R02 East of the 6th P.M. Washington County Ks.
LOCATION: From Linn Ks. go 2 miles North to hwy 148, then 7 miles West to Heritage Rd. Then 2 miles North to the corners of Heritage and 12th Rd. This is the NW corner of the farm.
GENERAL DESCRIPTION: 168 Acres M/L with 109.8 acres CRP. 10.6 acres waterways, balance being approximately 49.6 acres of good native grass pasture. This gently rolling upland farm is all planted to Native grass CRP. The CRP contract runs till Sept 30, 2016 and pays \$58.82 per acre. (\$6458.00) A nice farm with good cash flow and exceptional hunting potential.
TAXES: for 2008 are \$968.69 approx.
TERMS & POSSESSION: 10% down day of the sale balance due on or before January 29th, 2009 Taxes for 2009 will be the buyers responsibility, Seller to pay the 2008 taxes. CRP payments will be prorated to date of closing. New owner will be obligated to follow CRP contract enacted in 2006 by the sellers. Title insurance will be used with costs split equally between buyer and seller. This property is being sold subject to tenants rights (pasture). Possession on April 1, 2009. This farm is to be sold as-is. All inspections should be made prior to the day of the sale. This is a cash sale and will not be subject to financing, have your financing arraignments made prior to sale day. The Realty Associates are representing the seller and do not represent the buyer. All information has come from reliable sources; potential bidders are encouraged to verify all information independently. All announcements made the day of the sale will take precedence over any other information.
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Soldiers' helmets lined with wool from Maryland farm

BOZMAN, Md. (AP) — About 12,000 yards of wool from 15 sheep that graze on a farm deep in the heart of the Eastern Shore's Bay Hundred region will travel to Afghanistan for the troops.

On Babs and Stan Minken's Lostock Farm in Bozman, 15 Border Leicester sheep roam and graze on about 15 of the farm's 200 acres. The couple raises the sheep for wool and meat.

About seven weeks ago, Babs Minken read about a pattern for wool liners in helmets for the military. She contacted the provided site and wound up taking about 60 skeins of wool to the National Museum of

the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va. Each skein contained about 200 yards of wool.

"They were very happy to receive my wool," she said. "It was the perfect weight and the perfect color."

Minken combined wool from her white Border Leicester sheep and from her natural Border Leicester sheep to make the gray-colored wool the knitters wanted.

At the museum, the knitters turned the wool into helmet liners. The wool Minken took to the museum should be enough to make about 100 liners.

"They were going to ship all these liners to Afghan-

istan for the troops," she said. "My sheep are doing something for the country."

The Minkens kept a summer place in the region for 20 years, and moved from Baltimore permanently about eight years ago when they decided to get livestock. They chose sheep because the animals are docile, she said.

"I like the way they look," Babs Minken said. "They're very pastoral and slow moving." As she talked, sheep roamed freely about the pasture. "Look at them all out today," she said. "They're so happy. They have wonderful dispositions."

The original group of

sheep came from Vermont when a drought forced a farm to get rid of some sheep.

"It was almost a rescue, but not quite," Minken said. "That's how we got into it."

Border Leicester sheep

are prized for their long curly wool. The sheep don't have wool on the head and legs, which makes shearing easy. The long wool is good for spinning, according to the American Border Leicester Association.

The breed originated in England in the late 1700s and George Washington reportedly kept a small flock at Mount Vernon in Virginia. Washington introduced the breed in the U.S., according to the association.

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Growing giant pumpkins will be featured at Great Plains Vegetable Growers Conference, Jan. 8-10

The 16th annual Great Plains Vegetable Growers Conference is set for Jan. 8-10, 2009, at the Fulker-son Center at Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, Mo.

Among the highlights at the 2009 conference will be a pair of presentations on giant pumpkins by Marc Petersen, a championship grower from Iowa who took top place at the Iowa State Fair this year for a 1,238-pound pumpkin he grew with Dan Carlson. Petersen said a 1,370-pound Petersen/Carlson pumpkin would have won at the 2008 Anamosa Pumpkinfest as well had it not been attacked by a groundhog three weeks before the event. "It was disqualified for two rot spots that then developed," he said.

Petersen will give a presentation on growing techniques followed by a talk on using pumpkin festivals to promote farmers markets.

"We are always looking for interesting topics for the Great Plains Vegetable Growers Conference," said James Quinn, University of Missouri Extension regional horticulture specialist. "By putting these presentations on Saturday, I'm hoping avid hobbyist gardeners will find it

more convenient to attend."

The conference and trade show is a collaboration of growers associations and extension services from Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and South Dakota. Each year the event draws hundreds of producers from the region and beyond.

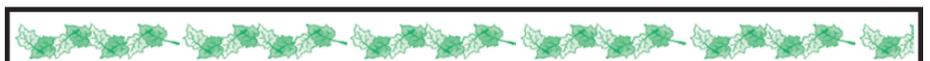
Four concurrent sessions on Friday and Saturday allow for more than 50 presentations on subjects related to organic and conventional crop production, protection, risk management and marketing. "Interesting and useful information will be presented on production and marketing of vegetables, cut flowers and small fruit," said Tom Fowler, MU Extension horticulture specialist in Buchanan County. "It doesn't matter if you are an experienced commercial vegetable grower or someone with just a

dream about starting to grow and sell produce, there will be something for you."

Registration for the first day is \$50 and includes meals as well as admission to either the high tunnel workshop or the Community Supported Agriculture mini-school. Registration for the second and third days is \$35 each.

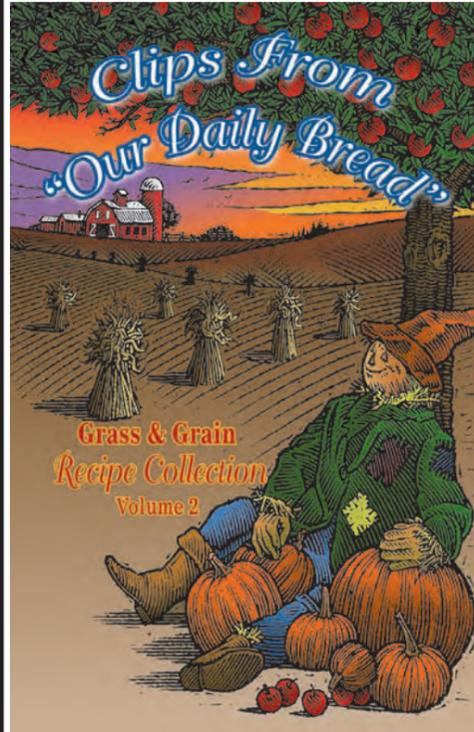
The official conference hotel is the Ramada St. Joseph Conference Center, 4016 Frederick Blvd., St. Joseph. Room rate is \$69 per night plus tax. To make room reservations, call 800-748-0036.

For more information about the program and a registration form, contact Katie Cook at cookkm@missouri.edu or (816) 279-1691. A full program, driving instructions and the latest conference updates are available at <http://extension.missouri.edu/buchanan/GPVGC.html>.



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Garlic planting a ritual at farm

By CLARE HOWARD
Peoria Journal Star

PEORIA, Ill (AP) — Pa-pery white garlic skins and golden walnut leaves swirl across the rich black soil on Henry Brockman's Woodford County farm.

In woolly cap and bib overalls, Brockman rumbles across his field, steering a Ford 1720 tractor propelled on biofuel. The faint smell of French fries occasionally wafts through the autumn air, exhaust from recycled vegetable oil.

Farmhands stoop low over the ground as they push thick cloves of garlic into loose loam that has lost all memory of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and compaction.

As work continues into afternoon, October sun calms a brisk wind, and workers shed sweaters and scarves, then shirts and shoes.

This ritual unfolds annually at Brockman's farm. Garlic planting is a seasonal transition with overarching significance. It's the last planting of one season and the first planting of the next. It's a start, the embodied hope for next year's harvest.

Brockman's sister, Terra, labored barefooted over the warm earth, soaking up every sensory perception of time, season, texture, warmth and aroma.

She called the fragrance rising from the earth "a life smell. Something akin to fresh baking bread."

Cradled in this valley cordoned off by woodland from the outside world, Henry Brockman's 10-acre organic operation is both a throwback and a prayer. It's chemical free, diverse agriculture more typical of central Illinois a century ago. It's also an environmental and economic prototype for global survival in an era of accelerating carbon emissions, erratic weather patterns and commercially raised produce shipped thousands of miles from field to plate.

At first Brockman wasn't sure his local garlic could compete with commercially produced garlic, but each year he increases production and each year he sells out.

Brockman started farming here in 1993 and planted his first garlic that autumn.

Year after year, he's saved the best heads to replant in October. As a result, a little genetic engineering of sorts is going on, and the best of the best garlic, perfectly suited for these central Illinois silt-loam soils, is planted each fall, each generation improving upon its forefathers.

Worldwide production of garlic has doubled to more than two million acres since 1970, reflecting the near mythic status of the allium among chefs, foodies and natural healers. There are hundreds of varieties of garlic from hardneck and soft-neck to Purple Stripe and Rocambole.

Brockman favors New York White, Inchelium Red, Russian Red and German Red. Toward the end of each season, he sells braids of New York White because he's discovered that braids of garlic store better through winter than loose heads.

Before darkness blankets this field, 27,000 cloves of garlic will be gently pushed into the earth at 5-inch intervals separating each clove from its nearest sibling or cousin.

Another calendar highlight comes in early December. Brockman watches for a night sky clear and deep with stars, a night when frost spills over the fields, forming a hard, thin crust of frozen earth.

The next morning, before dawn, he'll move big round bales of hay from his fallow fields. The bales are pushed down each row of garlic, mulching as they roll from one end of the field to the other. The work is done in that ephemeral first light between earliest dawn and sunrise, before even a wisp of warmth from a December sun can thaw the thin crust of frozen soil.

Once mulched, garlic is tucked in for a blustery Midwest winter. Brockman's work is done and the garlic cloves take over, sending out a network of roots over the winter, gaining strength for a surge of growth at the first hint of spring. Garlic is hardy, shunning any mid-wifery.

Tender green shoots are more like young leeks or scallions. Spring garlic is

one of the first crops Brockman takes to market in early May.

In recent months as the economy nosedived, talk among vendors at the farmers market turned to worry. Some farmers contend they noticed a drop in sales and speculate that people are turning to cheaper, commercially raised produce.

"I did not notice a drop in sales," Brockman said. "My concern is to get people to taste this food. Once they eat this, I get them hooked. Once they discover what food can taste like, they'll never go back."

As the hours of garlic planting progressed through afternoon, the sun sent long shadows over Brockman's field, and Daniel Escutia, 25, was still crouched on his haunches, rhythmically pushing garlic cloves into the earth.

Escutia was an art major at Northwestern University when he first met Brockman at the farmers market in Evanston. Escutia, who is from Mexico and Chicago, has worked all spring and summer with Brockman, who says he never finds his farmhands. They find him.

There is a poetry, scholarship and environmental morality about Brockman that draw people to him.

"This is a magical place here," Escutia said, eyes circling the bordering woodland. "These two fields are little bowls of life."

After graduating from Northwestern, Escutia decided against graduate school and worked in photography, fabric and performing arts.

"There is a sort of unity here for me," he said. "This experience here is my art now."

Census shows rural Nebraska faring well

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Along with open spaces and neighbors who know your name, rural Nebraskans may be able to add higher incomes to their list of what makes the "good life" even better in the country.

New data from the U.S. Census Bureau, covering the years 2005 to 2007, shows a significant reversal from 2000 in the economic fortunes of rural Nebraskans compared with their urban counterparts.

The median household income in rural Nebraska in 1999, the year reflected in the 2000 Census, was more than \$5,000 less than the median income of urban households that same year.

But the disparity flip-flopped in the latest census, with rural dwellers landing on top.

When adjusted for inflation, the median rural income during the three-year period was more than 5 percent higher than in 1999. Meanwhile, the median urban income did not keep pace with inflation and declined nearly 8 percent compared with 1999 figures.

The net effect: in the period covering 2005 to 2007, the rural household median income was \$47,793, nearly \$1,200 higher than urban households.

Randy Cantrell, a rural sociologist at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, called the statistics good news for rural parts of the state but cautioned that "it's not likely to be uniformly good news."

That's because it is especially difficult to accurately measure what is happening in the most sparsely populated areas of the state. For one, the smaller the population, the larger the margin for statistical error, he said.

Adding to that is the relatively low number of surveys returned by Nebraskans because the survey itself is fairly new, he said.

Besides higher rural incomes, the figures gathered by the Census' American Community Survey reveal that a smaller percentage of rural Nebraskans were living in poverty during the recent, three-year period compared with 2000.

At the same time, the percentage of urban dwellers

who were impoverished rose.

In 1999, roughly the same percentage of rural and urban Nebraskans — a little less than 10 percent — were in poverty.

Rural areas also fared better under another measure of economic health: home prices. Adjusted for inflation, home values jumped by nearly \$21,000 in rural Nebraska, double the roughly \$10,500 increase in urban Nebraska.



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Kobelco SK250LC, New Holland LS170, New Holland C190, 2007 Sakai SV400 TB-I, Finn T90 hydor seeder, 2008 Sakai SW320, Toyota propane forklift, Ramrod Taskmasters, Bradco HP1000 cold planer, 2006 Atlas Capco GX11 air compressor, Alltite hydraulic pneumatic torque and tension system, Sabaru RG7500 generator, Speco ech security system, and more





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LAND AUCTION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20 — 10:00 AM

At the Fire House, BARNES, KANSAS

The NW 1/4 SE 1/4 & the E 1/2 SE 1.4 36-3-5, Little Blue Township, Washington County, Kansas, 120 acres, more or less.

This farm is located 1 mile north of Barnes on K-148, then 3 1/2 miles east on 11th Road, then 1 mile north on 1st Terrace and the field access road. This is the east side of the farm. Access to the land south of the river has been 1 mile north of Barnes on K-148, 2 miles east on 11th Road, 1 mile north on Cross Creek Road, then east on 12th Road to the low water crossing, then along the neighbors' field edges to the southwest corner of the farm.

There are 59 acres cropland, nearly all river bottom land, with fields of 27 and 22.4 acres on the north side and 9.8 acres on the south side of the river. The rest of the farm is overgrown native grass pasture in the northeast corner, a wooded draw leading down to the river, and about 1/2 mile of river frontage, some on both sides of the river. This is a secluded farm, with a unique mix of productive bottom land and excellent upland and river wildlife habitat.

The FSA bases and yields are 11.8 acres wheat, 36 bushels; 22.7 acres corn, 75 bushels; 3.1 acres milo, 64 bushels; and 21.3 acres soybeans, 25 bushels. The 2008 taxes are \$775.67.

The cropland was in corn and soybeans in 2008 and is open for spring crops.

TERMS: Ten (10) percent down, 40% on or before December 30, 2008, and 50% on or before January 20, 2009. The last 50% must be paid in 2009. Possession will be given on March 1, 2009.

Announcements the day of the auction take precedence over printed advertising

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LAND AUCTION

3 Farms, 176 acres, Little Blue Township,

Washington County, Kansas Farms

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20 — 10:00 AM

At the Fire House, BARNES, KANSAS

TRACT 1: That part of the SW 1/4 36-3-5, lying north and east of the Little Blue River, 16 acres, more or less. This secluded acreage is located 5 miles north of Barnes on highway K-148, then 2 miles east on 15th Road, then 2 miles south on Cross Creek Road, then west to the river, then southeast about 1/2 mile along the river. There are 6.9 acres Little Blue River bottom cropland, in 2 fields, with the rest being creek and river wildlife habitat. Bolling Creek runs through the place. Access to the west field has been along the river from the northwest. Access to the east field has been across the Roepke land to the east, as this land has been farmed together with it. The estimated FSA bases and yields are 2.4 acres wheat, 34 bushels; 3.3 acres milo, 64 bushels; and .9 acres soybeans, 16 bushels. The 2008 taxes are \$75.55. The land was in soybeans in 2008 and will be open for spring crops. This tract is a nice mix of productive river bottom land and excellent river wildlife habitat.

TRACT 2: W 1/2 SE 1/4 29-3-5, 80 acres, more or less. This farm is located on the north side of 13th Road, 1 1/2 miles west, 3 miles north and 1/2 mile east of Barnes. There are 29.2 acres terraced, gently to moderately sloping upland cropland, 49.4 acres native grass pasture and 1 acre waterways. The estimated FSA bases and yields are 9.2 acres wheat, 34 bushels; 12.7 acres milo, 64 bushels; and 3.4 acres soybeans, 16 bushels. The 2008 taxes are \$385.43. The cropland was in wheat in 2008, and will be open for spring crops. This place has been well farmed, the terraces are well maintained and the pasture shows good care.

TRACT 3: S 1/2 NW 1/4 29-3-5, 80 acres, more or less. This farm is located on the east side of Yankee Road, 1 1/2 miles east and 3 1/2 miles north of Barnes. There are 10.2 acres terraced, gently to moderately sloping upland cropland, with the rest being native grass pasture. The driveway entrance at the southwest corner of the farm leads to the cropland in the middle of the farm, and then to the old farmstead, barn, and corrals in the northeast corner of the farm. There is electricity to the farmstead. The estimated FSA bases and yields are 3.2 acres wheat, 34 bushels; 4.4 acres milo, 64 bushels; and 1.2 acres soybeans, 16 bushels. The 2008 taxes are \$268.50. The cropland was in corn in 2008, and will be open for spring crops. This place has been well farmed, the pasture shows good care, and the timbered draws provide excellent wildlife habitat.

Terms on all 3 farms: 10 percent down, 40 percent due on or before December 30, 2008, and 50% due on or before January 20, 2009. The last 50% must be paid in 2009. Possession will be given March 1, 2009.

Announcements the day of the auction take precedence over printed advertising.

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Horsin' Around

By Don Coldsmith



Mismeasure

Recently I was doing a bit of repair and refinishing on some old furniture. Some of it has needed attention for years, the sort of thing that can be set aside until there's time for it. "We'll do that when the work's all done," a favorite uncle used to say. It was years before I realized that the work was never going to be all done.

And, it wasn't now, of course. But I had actually managed to do some regluing, strip old varnish, sand and refinish a couple of things. While I was at it, I figured I might work on an old barrister-style bookcase that was once my dad's. It's the kind with several sections, in this case, four. They can be stacked or disassembled with no tools, and this one was in use, but only three sections of it. The fourth section had been removed and stored years ago. The glass front had been accidentally broken, and the frame was in pieces. No major problems. A new piece of glass, reglue the frame ... I found the rest of that shelf unit, and saw that it was all in pretty good shape. Ends, back, shelf, and the frame for the glass front.

It seemed logical to get the glass first, and glue the frame around it, so I started to measure. The measuring was a bit tricky, because the frame was in several pieces, but I had an idea. Measure the glass in one of the other units!

As I measured, I reminded myself of an old adage that my grandfather used to say: "measure twice and cut once." Okay, I measured three times to be sure, and carefully wrote down the dimensions. They came out in odd fractions of an inch, and the glass would be long and narrow, like the shelf. I headed for the glazier's place, one of two or three in town, and in a short while was back home with my new glass, assembling that glass front.

I actually had three sides of the frame in place around the glass before I realized that something was wrong. The new glass, measured and cut

so carefully, was at least three inches too narrow. But I measured! Could it be that the shelf units were not alike? I raced back upstairs with the steel tape measure and found that of the four units, there were three different sizes. I had assumed they were all the same.

Edna was sympathetic, although not very. Actually she thought it was pretty funny. I mentioned that I might get the next piece of glass at a different store, to avoid admitting what I'd done. Oh, no, she said, it would be no problem. I could just go back and tell them what a dumb cluck I was (her expression was more graphic).

Then she seemed to relent. I could all them, she suggested, order the dimensions, and give a different name. Then she'd pick up the glass for me. I rejected the offer. The way she was giggling, she was already enjoying this too much.

So, I started over. This time I temporarily assembled the frame, and measured the opening (at least three times). Armed with new dimensions, I went

back to the same store.

I considered telling the man that I'd accidentally broken another glass, but decided to 'fess up instead. I just walked in and calmly told him what had happened, adding that I had really thought that those shelf units were all alike. After all, I'd seen them every day in my dad's study during all my years of growing up.

He sort of grinned. "You don't know how good this makes me feel," he said. "It's nice to know I'm not the only one who does things like that."

I felt somewhat better about it after his admission, and I began to see that it really was pretty funny. I remembered a friend from school days who used to console people in such circumstances. "Don't feel bad," he'd tell them. "We all make dumb, stupid mistakes."

The new glass fit the frame perfectly, and it's now as good as new. I even have a spare glass in case I break one of the other units. How could it be better (unless, of course, I'd break the wrong one)?

See you down the road.

Crops team takes second at two national contests

The Kansas State University Collegiate Crops Team placed second at both the Kansas City Board of Trade Collegiate Crops Contest and the Chicago Collegiate Crops Contest.

The K-State team placed second in grain grading and in plant and seed identification, and fourth in seed analysis in the Nov. 18 competition at Kansas City. The team placed second in all three phases of the Nov. 22 contest in Chicago.

The national competitions required participants to identify more than 200 different plants or seed samples of crops and weeds; grade eight different samples of grain according to Federal Grain Inspection Service standards; and analyze 10 seed samples to determine whether or not they contain impurities, and if so, what contaminants exist.

K-State Crops team members and their individual results at the competitions include:

Alex Bolack, Burden, placed sixth overall in Kansas City and 10th overall in Chicago. He was sixth in seed analysis and

seventh in both grain grading and plant and seed identification in Kansas City, and sixth in plant and seed identification and tenth in grain grading in Chicago.

Aaron Widmar, Franklin was sixth individual overall in Chicago and seventh overall in Kansas City. He placed third in grain grading, eighth in seed analysis, and ninth in plant and seed identification in Chicago. In Kansas City, he placed fourth in grain grading and seventh in seed analysis.

Heath Kinser, Hugoton, was seventh individual overall in Chicago. He placed second in seed analysis and fourth in plant and seed identification. In Kansas City, he was an alternate contestant.

Jared Unrau, Newton. He served as an alternate contestant at the Kansas City contest.

Josh Patterson, Valley Center. Patterson placed ninth individual overall in Kansas City. He was third in grain grading and sixth in plant and seed identification. He did not compete in Chicago.

The team was coached

by Kevin Donnelly, K-State professor of agronomy. Team sponsors include the Kansas Seed Industry Association, Kansas Crop Improvement Association, K-State department of agronomy and the K-State Student Governing Association.

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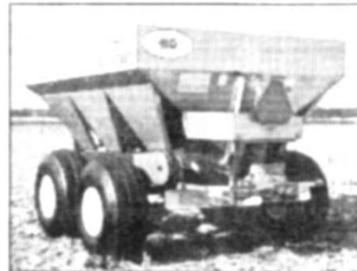
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Selection process improves beef synchro protocol

Choosing the right estrus synchronization protocol can be a daunting task for producers, said Sandy Johnson, Kansas State University Extension livestock specialist, speaking Dec. 2 during the Robert E. Taylor Memorial Symposium: Applied Reproductive Strategies in Beef Cattle in Fort Collins. Johnson presented two tools to help guide producers through the decision-making process.

Protocol Short List

The Beef Cattle Reproduction Leadership Team has compiled a short list of protocols recommended for heifers or cows based on various levels of heat detection the producer is willing to employ. "When in doubt, use something off these sheets," Johnson advised, explaining that the leadership team had considered available research to establish the recommendations. "If someone suggests you use something else, ask them what data they have to support it." She described recommended protocols for cows and for heifers, each broken out by desired level of heat detection:

Heifer protocols for heat detection: one-shot prostaglandin (PG); CIDR@PG; MGA@PG.

Heifer protocols for timed artificial insemination (TAI): CO-Synch + CIDR; MGA-PG; CIDR Select.

Heifer protocols for heat detection and TAI: Select Synch + CIDR and TAI; MGA-PG and TAI.

Cow protocols for heat detection: Select Synch; Select Synch + CIDR.

Cow protocols for TAI; Co-Synch + CIDR.

Cow protocols for heat detection and TAI; Select Synch and TAI; Select Synch + CIDR and TAI.

The protocols are detailed in the sym-

posium proceedings and in the PowerPoint accompanying Johnson's presentation, which is available in the newsroom at www.appliedreprostrategies.com. In all cases, Johnson said, be sure to use the correct synchronization product at the recommended time and follow Beef Quality Assurance practices when administering products. 2) Synchronization planner. Another tool is available through the Iowa Beef Center, Johnson said. The Estrus Synchronization Planner is an Excel spreadsheet-based tool intended to help producers apply synchronization protocols more effectively.

The Web module available at www.iowabeefcenter.org allows producers to insert preferences such as the day they want to start breeding or the desired number of trips they are willing to put cattle through the chute, along with cost considerations. The result, Johnson explained, is a calendar for administering the protocols and a cost breakout including the estimated cost per AI pregnancy. The Robert E. Taylor Memorial Symposium is conducted by Colorado State University every other year to provide current, research-based information for improving profitability in the beef cattle industry.

The ARSBC program was developed by the Beef Cattle Reproduction Task Force to improve understanding and application of reproductive technologies, including AI, estrus synchronization and factors affecting male fertility. In 2008, CSU and the Task Force collaborated to provide the Dec. 2-3 symposium in Fort Collins.

To listen to Johnson's presentation, review her PowerPoint or view other presentations from the symposium, visit the newsroom at www.appliedreprostrategies.com.

Wheat breeder taking new approach

Sometimes less is more. That's how Kansas State University wheat breeder, Allan Fritz, is now approaching the problem of getting durable leaf rust resistance into new varieties.

Combining several resistance genes that, individually, impart only a minor level of leaf rust protection to all races of leaf rust should offer more durable resistance than using a single gene with very strong resistance to specific races of rust, Fritz said.

"Leaf rust long has been one of the biggest concerns for wheat breeders in Kansas and the Great Plains," he said. "In most cases, just as soon as wheat breeders release a new variety with strong leaf rust resistance, a race of leaf rust that can overcome that resistance comes along to attack the variety."

To try to get ahead of this problem, Fritz is changing his approach. Instead of focusing on strong, race-specific sources of leaf rust resistance, he is now working with plant pathologists from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service and CIMMYT (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center) in Mexico to incorporate so-called "minor" genes for leaf rust resistance.

"None of these minor genes in itself provides strong resistance to leaf rust. A variety minor gene resistance won't be perfectly green during a leaf rust outbreak. But there will be fewer leaf rust pustules, they'll be smaller, and will take longer to develop."

"When three or more minor genes for leaf rust resistance are combined, a variety will have very acceptable resistance to all races of leaf rust. In Mexico, varieties with minor gene resistance have maintained that resistance for many years. That's what we'd like to see in our new wheat varieties."

Fritz and his team have been crossing a genotype called "Amadina" onto Overley, a hard red winter wheat variety. Amadina has four minor genes for leaf rust resistance.

"We currently have 11 such lines in the Kansas Intrastrate Nursery tests. If all goes well with these experimental lines, we may have a new variety with durable leaf rust resistance ready for release in 2011," he said.

Some of the minor genes for leaf rust resistance also carry minor gene resistance for stripe rust, Fritz added. As a result, the new varieties developed for minor gene, durable, slow-rusting leaf rust resistance will also have the same type of durable resistance for stripe rust.

"If this type of durable leaf rust and stripe rust resistance can be incorporated into most or all of our new wheat varieties, that will give us more resources to focus on other traits in our breeding problems."

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Understanding nature key part of solving stream erosion concerns

Without proper care and an understanding of how streams operate under the rules of Mother Nature, a landowner with a stream running through his or her property may have a serious problem without an affordable solution.

Along with water, streams also transport sediment, which can create a problem if the amount of sediment picked up and moved downstream is not the same amount of sediment being deposited into the stream. In unhealthy streams, this balance is lacking, said Marley Beem, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service aquaculture specialist with Oklahoma State University's Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

"Either too much sediment is being deposited and mid-channel sediment bars form or too little is being deposited and the stream down-cuts its bed or widens its channel," he said.

The faster the water is rushing through the greater the potential for erosion. However, nature has ways of defending itself. The first way is called the riparian zone, which is the "area adjacent to a stream channel that is occupied by water loving trees, shrubs or other plants."

Although erosion still exists in these areas, the deep and dense root networks hold the soil together. The second way in which streams try to accommodate the erosive energy of flowing water is by "meandering." By forming curves, the distance the water travels is increased and the slope is decreased. As a result, the water's velocity - and therefore its erosive energy - is decreased.

"It's normal for stream and river channels to slowly move over time. If one could watch a stream from the air over a period of several lifetimes, it would appear as if it

were a writhing snake," Beem said. "This is one reason why construction of homes and other structures close to streams should be discouraged." As the stream moves over time, any structure in its path can be significantly damaged. Beem also said not to build a home in a floodplain. Not only will the house be in danger, but flooding may increase when many people build homes downstream.

"As long as people have been wise enough to avoid building houses and other structures in the floodplain, flooding is a beneficial process," Beem said.

During a flood, the water rises above the bank and spreads out, depositing sediment as the water slows. This is the third way in which nature defends itself from erosion.

"The new sediment helps form and maintain productive soils," Beem said. "Flooding is a natural occurrence that is part of normal stream functioning."

Larger streams also can benefit from the presence of live trees, plants, rocks or woody debris within the channel. These obstructions will slow the velocity of the water and create scour holes for fish populations.

Smaller streams, on the other hand, may be negatively affected by debris in the stream. A fallen tree in a small channel has the potential of creating a meander where one might not be desired. However, the clearing of logjams or beaver dams can be dangerous. Beem recommends landowners to seek advice before taking action. "While it's true that there are engineering methods for solving any stream erosion problem, the costs are quite high and almost always beyond the reach of the private landowner," Beem said. "It's far better to understand and respect the ways in which nature regulates stream erosion and avoid such problems in the first place."



Yard & Garden Tips

By Gregg Eystone

A Must Have Garden Tool

Everyone probably knows at least one thing Santa and gardeners have in common. Both do a lot of ho, hoe, hoeing. With the right tool, the gardening type of hoeing can be easily accomplished.

I started my gardening experience using the common type of garden hoe. It is good for making furrows to plant vegetable seeds and small holes to plant transplants. Most of the time, I used it to cut, chop and rogue out weeds. There are better designed tools for removing weeds.

My goal is that every gardener finds the right tool that makes gardening fun. Finding that tool needs to occur before frustration and giving up is the result. Making the switch to a weeding type hoe has made it fun for me. Sometimes you have to do it the hard way first to know the difference.

There are many kinds of weeding tools but the good ones have one characteristic in common. The blade lies flat or parallel with the ground. It matters not the shape of the blade but the angle.

When weeding, the principle is to cut off the weed without encouraging more. My technique with the typical hoe was to stir up more weed seeds while removing the one growing. These better tools disturb less soil equaling fewer weeds. They cut the weeds at the soil line.

The first tool I got has a blade shaped as an inverted W. I liked how it worked so much that I wouldn't share. To keep the peace, I purchased another type. Only I liked it as well and ended up using both at the same time. The second one has a diamond shape blade and is smaller and lighter

to use. Number three tool has a triangle blade.

Each blade shape works best in a different gardening scenario. They all work better for me than the typical hoe. Any would be a good gift for a gardener.

These and other garden tool gift ideas are available on our website at www.riley.ksu.edu. On the lawn and garden page, click on current topics. At the top of that page will be a link to garden tools. Contact local tool stores or websites for garden tool availability.

If you would like additional information on a horticulture topic, please contact Gregg Eystone at the Riley County office of K-State Research and Extension. Gregg may be contacted by calling 537-6350 or stopping by 110 Courthouse Plaza in Manhattan or e-mail: geyeston@ksu.edu and at www.riley.ksu.edu.

Winter solstice is Dec. 21, days will lengthen soon

With an unfolding recession and now the cold, dark winter days setting in, some people may be wondering if there are any bright spots ahead.

One day to look forward to is Dec. 21, said State of Kansas Climatologist Mary Knapp. It marks this year's winter solstice, which means that for several months after Dec. 21, the sun will gradually climb higher and the days will get longer.

The word "solstice" comes from Latin and means "sun standing still," said Knapp, who is in

charge of the Kansas Weather Data Library, based in Kansas State University Research and Extension. The event got this name because for several days before and after the solstice, the sun's noon-time position appears to be the same.

"In fact," she said, "as we move from the summer solstice in late June to the winter solstice in December, the sun appears lower in the sky each day. Now the pattern will reverse, with the sun climbing higher each day."

"Even so, our cold winter weather has just begun. In Kansas, the coldest weather usually occurs in late January and early February."

Kansas weather information is available on the Weather Data Library website: <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/wdl/>. "Weather Wonders" audio reports are available on the K-State Research and Extension/Kansas Radio Network site at <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/radio/>.

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December 16 — Tractors, combines, harvest, hay & farm equipment, sprayer & Ro-Gator, excavator, lawn mowers & trailers at Manhattan. Auctioneers: Stock Auctions.

December 17 — Tractors, harvest equipment, farm machinery, trucks & trailers, grain bins at Manhattan for Bill & Connie Kauer. Auctioneers: Stock Auctions.

December 18 — Real Estate at Wakefield for James D. Howard Trust. Auctioneers: Heartland Real Estate Auction.

December 18 — Tractors, combines, construction, trucks, trailers, hay & forage equip., grain equip., ATV's at Marshall, MO for Weinreich Brothers. Auctioneers: Wheelers Auctions.

December 19 — Russell Co. land at Russell for Gene Vopat, Caleb Vopat, Cassie Flock. Auctioneers: Victor Brothers-Frank Princ Auctions.

December 19 — Annual Machinery auction at Richmond, MO for Richmond Farm & Lawn. Auctioneers: Wheeler Auctions.

December 19 — Land auction at Linn for Scott & Laurie Wilkens. Auctioneers: Mark Uhlik Auctions.

December 20 — Complete liquidation at El Dorado for Grandma's Floral & Gifts. Auctioneers: Chuck Korte Real Estate & Auctions.

December 20 — Washington Co. farm land at Barnes for Myrl Bartley. Auctioneers: Raymond Bott Realty & Auction.

December 20 — Washington Co. Farms at Barnes for The Myrl Bartley Trust. Auctioneers: Bott Realty & Auctions.

December 20 — Washington Co. land at Barnes for The Milton & Mary Lou Roepke Trust. Auctioneers: Bott Realty & Auctions.

December 27 — Farm machinery, livestock equipment, construction equipment consignment sale at Hiawatha. Auctioneers: Jeff Hoffman Auctions.

December 27 — Antiques, collectibles, wood fishing lures, jewelry, tools & household at Abilene for Marjorie McLaughlin. Auctioneers: Reynolds, Mugler & Geist.

January 1, 2009 — 24th annual New Year's Day consignment auction at Lyndon. Auctioneers: Harley Gerdes Auctions.

January 3 — Auto, coins, collectibles, glassware, organ, furniture, appliances, Shop, household &

misc. at Sabetha for Mary & Wavia Edelman, Daryl & Grace Bechtelheimer, Jerry Jun Estate, Richard Young Estate & Sidney Turner Estate. Auctioneers: Roger Hartter Auctions.

January 3 — Antiques, collectibles, tools, modern household, mowers at Abilene for John & Kaye Eveleth. Auctioneers: Reynolds, Mugler & Geist. January 9, 10 & 11 — Estate & costume jewelry, furniture, collectibles, glass collection, buggy, pottery, dog collection at Salina for Canyon Hills Antiques. Auctioneers: Thummel Auctions.

January 12 — Shawnee Co. hayable brome & pasture SW of Topeka. Auctioneers: Century 21 Miller & Midyett, Wayne Wischropp Auctioneer.

January 15 — Gray Co. real estate, horse facilities, arena, grain handling facility, shop & machine storage, livestock feeding facility, cattle pens at Cimarron for Doll, Miller & McNiece Famlies. Auctioneers: Schrader Real Estate & Auction.

January 17 — Marshall Co. farmland at Home for Wullschlegler Farms. Auctioneers: The Auctioneers.

January 24 — Household, ATV, tractor & loader & misc. at Effingham for Harold D. Foley. Auctioneers: Jeff Hoffman Auctions.

January 24 — Antique tools, antique marbles, primitives, paper items, pictures at Abilene for Wayne Berneking Estate. Auctioneers: Reynolds, Mugler & Geist.

January 31 — Tractors, combine, grain trucks, farm machinery N. of Overbrook for Mr. & Mrs. Gailand Kennedy. Auctioneers: Beatty & Wischropp Auctions.

February 11 — Cloud & Republic Co. land at Concordia for Karl Morgan Estate. Auctioneers: Larry Lagasse Auction & Real Estate.

February 14 — Black Hereford sale at Leavenworth for J&N Ranch.

February 24 — Brand that Works Production Sale at Manhattan for Mill Creek Ranch.

March 7 — Gelbvieh bull sale at Pomona for Judd Ranch.

March 14 — 23rd Annual Concordia Optimist Club Consignment Sale at Concordia.

March 21 — Farm Sale Southwest of Concordia for Bedford Malmquist Estate. Auctioneers: Larry Lagasse Auction & Real Estate.

March 28 — Registered Angus bull & female production sale W. of Topeka for Mission Valley Ranch.

2008 crop has Mo. wineries popping their corks

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — A year after a freak spring freeze nearly derailed the Missouri wine industry, the grape gods have been kind to vineyard owners like Sarah Schmidt — perhaps too kind.

A cool, wet spring and summer produced enough grapes to fill the storage tanks at Schmidt's Baltimore Bend Vineyards with juice, fulfill all of her contracts to supply fruit to other wineries and still leave grapes hanging in her 7-acre vineyard.

"We had an outstanding crop this year," said Schmidt, who operates in Waverly, about 60 miles east of Kansas City. "We even had more grapes than we could sell, which is not a great place to be for a grape grower. The quality was very good and we had an abundant crop."

Last year, a warm March and April followed by sub-freezing temperatures during the Easter weekend claimed about half the 30 tons of fruit Schmidt's vineyards produce, she estimated, wiping out about three-fourths of her white varietals and a quarter of her reds.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Missouri vineyards produced only 2,500 tons of grapes in 2007, a 40 percent drop from the previous year despite the state gaining an extra 100 acres of production capacity.

That left the state's more than 80 wineries scrambling for fruit to make their products. Many vintners, such as Tim Puchta, owner of Adam Puchta Winery in Hermann, had to go as far away as New York to buy grapes.

"Ninety-five percent of my growers got hammered. That allowed us to bring in

as much as we could from out of state last year," said Puchta, who is chairman of the Missouri Wine and Grape Board. "The freeze pretty much changed my business plan for the next five years."

Missouri wineries produced around 900,000 gallons of wine last year, ranking it 11th in the nation and far behind California's 566 million gallons. But the industry is an important economic engine for communities in the wine-producing region, generating an estimated \$700 million in taxes, tourism, salaries and other benefits.

This year's crop is much larger, but Puchta said wine enthusiasts shouldn't expect much of a price break when the vintages begin hitting shelves next year.

"It's going to be a little difficult with the economy the way it is," Puchta said, noting that the price of grapes hasn't changed and wineries are paying more for bottles, corks and fuel. "Our cost of production was still what it was and has been for the last few years."

But the wines coming out of this year's crop could be

better than average because the abundance of fruit allows producers to be more selective, said Cory Bomgaars, owner of Les Bourgeois Vineyards in Rocheport.

"On a short year, you have to take your best wines and some of your things that aren't your highest grade and mix them," Bomgaars said. "Now we can make a good product and a reserve product this year."

Bomgaars estimates he went 40 percent over his previous maximum harvest this year, compared with being 60 percent under a year ago.

"It was a pretty intense harvest because it was very heavy and pretty drawn out because it was a cool harvest as well," he said, noting he completed his harvest a month later than normal.

Experts said while the weather contributed to a good harvest, the freeze itself played a part as the vines in some cases came back stronger and more vigorous.

"It may have done something physiologically to the plants that gave them a jump start this year," Puchta said. "The full outcome of what

happened last year and this year may not be known for a year or so."

The cooler, wet weather has caused some headaches for vineyard owners who had to work harder to prevent mold and fungus and some of the fruit has come in with less sugar content and higher acidity, requiring careful analysis in the wine cellar, said Jim Anderson, executive director of the Wine and Grape Board.

"This year it's a little more challenging because of the rainfall and cloudier weather, the grapes are coming in at different levels," Anderson said. "So you're really earning your money this year being a wine maker."

Anderson added that Missouri wineries also have had to struggle with a decline in visits from consumers, who were chased away by rainy weather and high gas prices. But with prices coming down, he said a turnaround could be near.

"We're working harder for the offseason," he said. "It would be nice to see a milder winter so people will be more likely to spend on wine."

AUCTIONS!

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AUCTION

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18 — 10:00 AM

Directions: From Marshall, MO take Hwy 41 north 4 miles to county road 416. Turn left go west to sale site. Watch for signs.

TRACTORS
1978 JD 4240, CAH, w/JD 148 loader, QR trans 9000 hrs
1991 JD 2555, MFWD, Open Station, w/JD 245 Loader, 5400 hrs
1981 JD 4440, CAH, PS, 6000 hrs, duals, 18.4x38 rear, axle mount duals
1988 C-IH 7140, CAH, MFWD, 20.8x38 rear, with axle mount duals, 7,000 hrs, new rubber

COMBINES
2002 JD 9750 STS, 4WD, s-1534, e-2326, 1250x45/32, Greenstar monitor, CM, 7650x32 front, 28Lx26 rear

HEADERS & PLATFORMS
2001 JD 893 Corn Head, poly, CM, hyd deck plates & knife rolls
2004 JD 630F Grain table, CM, composite fingers
2003 Unverferth Header Mover, 25'
2003 Unverferth Header Mover, 30'

CONSTRUCTION
1997 Komatsu D65EX, full cab, air, 4800 hrs, 12' semi u blade, very good condition
Vermeer T600C Tiling Machine Ripper for Case Dozer, 3 shank, 1450 series
Leon 12' Dozer Blade, elec over hyd joystick, 6-way blade
Toyota Forklift, 5,000#, triple stage mast, LPG, 406FG25, 1925 hrs, pneumatic tires
Torque Model 13500, 13 yard Dirt Scoop w/dolly wheels & side boards
Case 580SK Backhoe, 4x4, 4800 hrs, w/ext hoe

TRUCKS
1987 Freightliner, conventional, day cab, 9 speed trans, 3306 CAT eng
1993 Ford Ranger, 4x4, ext cab, auto trans
1992 White GMC, conventional, day cab, N-14 Cummins eng, 9 sp
1966 Ford F-600 w/15' grain bed, single axle, 33000 actual miles
1995 Ford F-350, 4WD, dually, flat bed w/tool boxes, 460 cin eng, 78,000 actual miles
1999 Ford F-250, 4WD, V-10, 4 door
1992 Ford F-150, ext cab, 4x4
2006 Ford F-150, Super Crew, 40,500 miles, 5.4 lt, 4x4
2004 Ford F-150 Lariat, crew cab, 54,000 miles, 5.4 lt, 4x4

TRAILERS
Utility Van Trailer, 28', fiberglass
16' Cattle Trailer
2002 Fabrique Sprayer Trailer, 48', spring ride, 22.5 low profile tire
1973 35 T Load bearing Trailer, triple axle
Bale Trailer, 8 bale
Tile Trailer

FERTILIZER EQUIPMENT
Tyler Fertilizer Buggy, 6 T, 50' spread width, tandem axle

HAY & FORAGE EQUIPMENT
JD 1209 MOCO
Gehl 1710 Round Hay Baler
JD 270 Disc Mower
Kuhn GMD 700, GII, HD Disc Mower, like new, 40 acres of use
JD MX7 Cutter, 7', 3 pt
JD 660 Hay Rake w/dolly wheels
Bush Hog 2615 Rotary Cutter, hyd fold, 15', lam tires, chains

TILLAGE
JD 230 Disk, 25', hyd fold
Big Ox Ripper, 9 shank, 3 pt
Kent Disk-o-vator, 24'
Salford Seed Bed Conditioner, 30'
IH 490 Disk, 24'

DRILLS/PLANTERS
2004 JD 1890 Air Drill, 7 1/2" spacing w markers & scales, 30'
1997 Kinze 2200 12 row Planter, econo fold, NT, trash whippers & raven regent sys

GRAIN EQUIPMENT
A&L-705 Grain Cart, 30.5x32 tires
2001 Jet steel hopper, spring ride, 34' w/roll over tarp & side chute
2003 Jet steel hopper, spring ride, 38' w/roll over tarp
GSI Auger, 10"x72", w/swing around hopper

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BAXTER BLACK

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

Taking A Fall

One of the secrets of life is knowing how to take a fall. Physical, financial or emotional.

When you drop something, it breaks. Be it a bank, a bone, or a heart.

I've experienced all three kinds of falls. They all

take a while to get over. My usual reaction is to roll ... and keep rolling till I can see daylight. This method to get beyond trouble is not unique to me. Cattle feeders have as many lives as Geraldo Rivera. They crash and burn over and over, and are

miraculously reborn, acting as if nothing ever happened! They are like the Chicago Cubs at the beginning of each season. The slate is clean, their memories erased and it's Batter Up!

I've bought twice as many wedding rings as I've been married. To my good fortune I just kept rolling till the best one finally caught me and put me back on my feet.

I have a dear friend who contracted Parkinson's disease in his forties, twenty years ago. The battle he and his family fight continues to this day. They struggle and

fall and keep rolling. And every single hour of every single day that they get their head above water is worth more than any World Series ring, Academy Award, or \$700 billion dollar bailout.

It is this human spirit of resilience that makes regular folks into heroes. Single mothers working two jobs. Local bankers in tight money times extending loyal farmers seed money to keep them rolling. Teachers, firemen, doctors, deputies putting in unpaid extra hours to make our lives better. Volunteers

whose immeasurable contributions allow hospices, museums, county fairs and colleges to keep communities functioning.

It was surprising to me that when the American economy stumbled and fell in October, most of the rest of the world's economies tumbled like dominos. Now they are scrabbling around like we are, trying to find their footing. Some of the global nations may have taken secret pleasure in our misery, our comeuppance. Our fall was humbling. But now the realization of their dependence on us is hum-

bling for them. No one has any doubt that the United States carries the world's economy on its shoulders.

The shoulders of each American; you and me, and each of us who gets up every day, goes to work, pay our taxes, takes care of those around us, unselfishly contributes our time and money, and keeps the faith ... in God and country and each other.

We are taking this fall together and all we can do is keep rolling till we see daylight. And a year from now the world will be a better place.

FSA announces changes for issuance of program payments

Bill R. Fuller, State Executive Director of the Kansas USDA Farm Service Agency announced that payment centralization has occurred which affects FSA payments and loan disbursements and repayments.

There will no longer be any paper checks issued at a FSA county office. All program payments, commodity loan disbursements and facility loan disbursements will be issued by the Federal Reserve Bank through direct deposit electronic funds transfer or through the U.S. Treasury when a paper check is issued. FSA County Offices will process all payments through the web-based National Payment System (NPS) which will transmit the payment record to the Federal Reserve Bank or U.S. Treasury for processing.

This new payment centralization will provide automated accounting initiatives to strengthen internal

controls within FSA to mitigate the risk for erroneous payments.

Producers shall be aware that there may be a delay in receiving payments or loan proceeds in certain situations.

If the producer has a direct deposit on file and the payment does not need to be issued jointly, then the payment should be received in the producer's bank account within 2 days after the county office has electronically certified and signed the payment through NPS.

When the payment needs to be issued jointly or a producer does not have a direct deposit on file, then a paper check would be issued through U.S. Treasury after the county office has electronically certified and signed the payment through NPS. Processing time is at least 3 days for U.S. Treasury to issue the paper check and an additional 2-7 days for mailing, a total of 5-10 days for a paper check to

be received. The county office can either request the paper check be sent directly to the producer or directly to the county office, depending on the situation.

For example, a lienholder on the commodity pledged for a marketing assistance commodity loan wants the loan proceeds made jointly to the producer and lien holder, the county office will electronically certify and sign the payment through NPS and then the U.S. Treasury will issue a paper check made jointly to the producer and lienholder. This check will be received in 5-10 days either by the producer or the county office, depending on what the county office requested.

In addition, when a producer is making a loan repayment the payment needs to be the exact amount needed to repay quantity involved in the repayment. It is important that producers and warehouses communicate with county office.

2009 Kansas Hay and Grazing Conference

The Kansas Hay and Grazing Conference will be held on **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2009**

at the Kansas Farm Bureau building, 2627 KFB Plaza, Manhattan, Kansas

This is a public conference for anyone interested in livestock grazing, hay production/utilization or buying/selling of Kansas grass and hay products.

This conference is jointly sponsored by the Kansas Forage and Grassland Council and K-State Research and Extension.

- Registration: 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. call 620-431-1530 (Karen) or kwalters@oznet.ksu.edu
- Cost: \$40.00* pre-registration, \$60.00 at the door by Thursday, January 8, 2009
- To Register: Return the attached registration form,

Keynote Speaker Educational Displays Commercial Exhibitors

Breakout Sessions Include (will have the opportunity to attend three)

- Liability in the Hay Business
- Pasture, Rangeland, Forage - Vegetation Plan of Insurance
- Coolseason Grass Fertilization • Clean Water Farms Project
- Patch Burn Grazing of the Tallgrass Prairie
- Rangeland Management with a Cow Herd
- Proper Burning Technique for Rangeland & CRP • Grass-Fed Beef Update
- Using Byproduct Supplements
- A "Watch" List for Invasive Plants in Kansas • COOL & Animal ID Update
- Improved Forages for the Southern Plains

- *This year your registration fee will include:
- 1) 2009 membership in the Kansas Forage and Grassland Council
- 2) Conference lunch and breaks
- 3) Conference proceedings
- 4) 2009 KFGC Discount Coupon Book

Keynote Speaker: Andy Hopkins,
Noble Foundation
Forage Researcher.
Where are We Headed with Forage Research?

Award Lunch Speaker: Greg Krissek,
Director, Government Affairs,
ICM, Inc.
Colwich Ethanol Plant Producing Cellulosic Biofuels in Kansas

Registration — Please reply no later than January 8, 2009 • Pre-registration \$40.00 — At the door \$60.00
Registration includes proceedings, noon meal, breaks, 2009 KFGC membership and coupon book

Please print: Use additional sheets if necessary.

Name _____	Name _____
Address _____	Address _____
Phone _____	Phone _____
E-mail _____	E-mail _____
Number attending @ \$40.00 _____	Total Enclosed _____

Clip registration form and mail along with your check made payable to KFGC to:
Gary Kilgore, 308 West 14th, Chanute, KS 66720 • 620-431-1530 kwalters@oznet.ksu.edu
Please contact us (620-431-1530) at least four days prior to this event if accommodations are needed for persons with disabilities.

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